John O snags Senate power-sharing scheme

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2001 ★ 38 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 221 ₱15

Malacañang fence electrified

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

WHAT will they think of next?

Instead of getting shot at, protesters who will attempt to scale the walls of Malacañang will get an electric shock.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao yesterday confirmed that Malacañang was now surrounded by an electrified fence system but

MALACAÑANG/ A7

KATHARINE GRAHAM lives on as an icon of the free press the world over.

Katharine 'the great' is dead; 84

GOODBYE and thank you, Ms Graham, from journalists everywhere.

Katharine Graham, the American publishing pioneer who deftly steered The Washington Post through the tumult of the Pentagon Papers and Watergate and built it into a leading force in US journalism, died Tuesday. She was 84.

Ben Bradlee, legendary Post editor during the Watergate years, said the both respected and feared late publisher "had the guts of a burglar."

Graham, whose career was crowned in 1998 when she won a Pulitzer Prize for her autobiography "Personal History," died at St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise, Idaho.

She had been unconscious and in critical condition since she suffered debilitating head injuries Saturday afternoon after tumbling on a concrete walkway outside a condominium in Sun Valley, Idaho, where she was attending a business meeting.

Graham underwent surgery late Saturday at the St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise, but never regained consciousness after the fall, a hospital spokesperson said. Family members were

KATHARINE/ A12

She gave Post ultimate gift: Independence

(Editor's Note: The following is a tribute to Katharine Graham by Washington Post staff writer Robert G. Kaiser, reprinted from The Post with permission from Today. The article has been edited due to space restrictions.)

KATHARINE Graham was all the things the tributes and obituaries say she was: a pioneer, courageous, gifted as a business executive and as a writer, a woman who left a large mark on the history of her country. But those of us who worked for her would begin this way: Katharine Graham was the ideal boss.

The ideal boss—and she earned that

SHE/ A12

Investor sentiment: From boom to gloom

'Walk the talk,' GMA exhorted

BY GIL CABACUNGAN JR. AND TJ BURGONIO

INVESTOR sentiment in the country has turned from boom to gloom in less than six months as the euphoria over the change in administration gives way to depression.

A total of 70.9 percent of respondents in a poll conducted by the Makati Business Club (MBC) on July 3-17 said economic growth this year would be lower than last year's 4-percent growth in gross domestic product.

The survey covered 151 respondents representing 21 percent of MBC members, which are mostly heads of the country's top 1,000 corporations.

Asked to rate the performance of government agencies over the past six months, the respondents gave the highest mark to the Supreme Court.

The military, police, Senate, House of Representatives, the tourism, transportation and environment departments received negative ratings.

The MBC members gave traffic management and garbage collection the lowest ratings.

In a similar MBC survey taken shortly after Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo became president in January, 66 percent of the respondents expected the economy to perform bet-

INVESTOR/ A7

WHO put the fear in the eyes of children? But it's all in a day's work for a Scout Ranger at a military checkpoint in Cabubata, Basilan, searching for weapons inside a passenger jeepney.

DENNIS SABANGAN

Two more Abus fall in Basilan crackdown

BY JULIE ALIPALA-INOT
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ISABELA CITY, Basilan—Police arrested an alleged intelligence officer of the Abu Sayyaf during a saturation drive in Malamawi Island Tuesday night.

Supt. Akmadul Pangambayan, provincial police chief, said Henry Torres, 40, a pump boat operator and resident of Barangay Diki in Malamawi, was arrested by members of the 909th Provincial Mobile Group and taken to the 103rd Infantry Brigade headquarters in Barangay Tabiawan.

Another man was arrested Tuesday night, this time in the town of Lamitan, in the course of the government crackdown on Abu Sayyaf members and supporters. He was identified as Abraham Rebollos of Barangay Bohe Yakan.

Suspected Abu Sayyaf supporters Ismael Idris, Abubakar Asalin, Nasser Husin and Abdel Orina, who were separately arrested Tuesday afternoon, were brought yesterday morning to the office of Provincial Prosecutor Domingo Kinazo for a summary inquest.

Members of the media were barred from contact with the four, some of whom had bruises on their faces and arms.

But Maj. Alberto Gepilano, civil-military operations officer of the Joint Task Force Comet, said these could be "signs that they

TWO/ A12

Central bank props up peso to 53.70 to $

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO AND BLANCHE S. RIVERA

THE PESO yesterday fell to a six-month low of P54.335 to the dollar but bounced back to 53.70, up 25 centavos from the previous day's close, after the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) sold about $80 million on the spot market.

Total transactions at the Philippine Dealing System rose to $169 million from $49.5 million on Tuesday.

Two traders said the peso would have fallen to 55 to the dollar without the BSP's intervention.

The peso fell below 54 to the dollar hours after Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas drew the line at 55 to the greenback.

As trading began yesterday, Canlas told a local television station: "I think this (peso slide) is self-correcting. I don't see the peso really reaching the 55 or 60 to the dollar as some fund managers are claiming."

The peso hit the all-time intraday low of 55.75 on Jan. 18, at the height of People Power II that toppled President Macapagal-Arroyo's predecessor Joseph Estrada. The peso closed at 54.79 to the dollar on that day.

A trader from a mid-sized Philippine bank said the BSP propped up the peso in time for President Macapagal's State of the Nation Address (Sona) on Monday.

CENTRAL/ A7

A PREVIEW of a dream come true for Moi Tenorio, 11, who's given a closeup view of planes landing and taking off at the Naia with his sister, Dr. Bena Tenorio.

ROGER MARGALLO

Ailing boy's dream takes wing

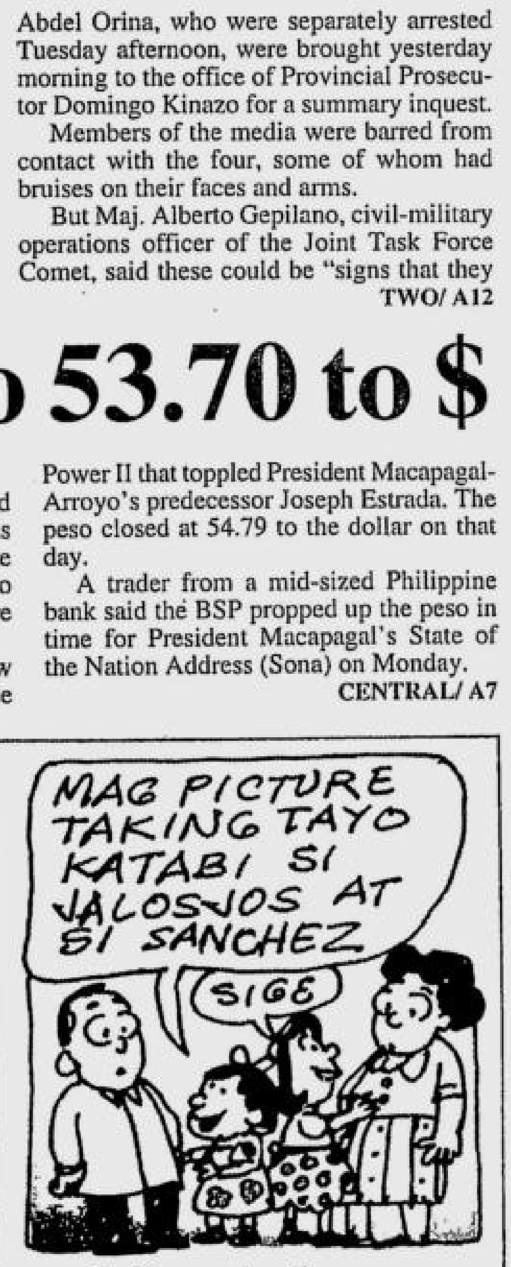
BY TJ BURGONIO

THERE'S something very wrong with his brain. But in the heart of the 11-year-old, there lives a dream: To become a pilot.

Moises Tenorio was diagnosed with a malignant tumor in his brain last October. He had to endure for four months the debilitating effects of four cycles of chemotherapy and later 30 days of radiation therapy at the Makati Medical Center.

Having quit school, Moi, who continues to be under medication, has to stay home in

AILING/ A7



MAG PICTURE TAKING TAYO KATABI SI JALOSJOS AT SI SANCHEZ
SIGE

Muntinlupa groomed as hot tourism spot

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

THIS way, ladies and gentlemen, to our main attraction: the Rogues' Gallery.

The next hot tourism spot in Metro Manila could be the home of the some of

MUNTINLUPA/ A7

Military says CPP masterminding Sona protests

BY CARLITO PABLO

THE ARMY yesterday released an intelligence report saying that the Communist Party of the Philippines had directed the party-list group Bayan Muna to lead nationwide protests on July 23, when President Macapagal-Arroyo delivers her first State of the Nation Address (Sona) at the opening of the 12th Congress.

The three-page report said Bayan Muna, which emerged No. 1 among the party-list groups in the May 14 elections, and the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan coalition were "tasked to consolidate all their sectoral organizations and demands that will be highlighted during the activity."

It said that the CPP was planning "intensified mobilization of its sectoral organs" and that the protests would be "concentrated" in front of the House of Representatives at the Batasan Pambansa complex in Quezon City, where the President will deliver her Sona.

But Bayan Muna president Satur Ocampo vehemently denied this, and dismissed the intelligence report as "lies and disinformation intended to discredit Bayan Muna as the leading party-list group winner."

"Bayan Muna is a legal political party that operates openly," he said.

Ocampo, one of the group's three nominees for the House, said that Bayan's pro-

MILITARY/ A12

PAKINGGAN NATIN SILA

Second FRONT PAGE

MINIMUM WAGE ISSUE

Civil society warns of unrest

By Juliet L. Javellana and Gerald G. Lacuarta

MEMBERS of civil society who "did lunch" with President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday warned the government should seriously consider workers' demands for a wage increase, "or there will be unrest."

"The government and Congress should listen to the demand of workers who are now hungry. If the Macapagal administration and Congress turn a deaf ear to this P125 demand, there will be unrest," said Fr. Joe Dizon of the Catholic charismatic group, Kairos Philippines, one of those present at the luncheon meeting in Malacañang.

Dizon warned government apathy to the plight of workers and the poor would spur another uprising similar to the one on May 1 where poor supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada attacked, but were repulsed from, Malacañang.

"If in her Sona (state of the nation address), the people feel nothing good could be expected from this government, you can be sure more and more people will be taking to the streets," Dizon said.

He said the President could not continue with her hands-off stance on the wage issue.

"I think this position of the President to ignore the demand for a P125 wage increase is not acceptable. There is an immediate need to raise wages," Dizon said.

Bayan spokesperson Teddy Casiño said workers could expect no good news or radical policy changes in the President's Sona, which she will deliver before Congress on July 23.

He said as many as 40,000 protesters are expected to demonstrate outside Congress while the President gives her speech.

Dizon and Casiño were joined at the lunch by representatives of Bayan Muna, Karapatan, Kilusang Mayo Uno and non-governmental organizations.

Reasonable proposal

The groups' leaders promised the President the protests would be orderly and peaceful, Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

Tiglao said there was a "very lively" discussion during the lunch.

He said the President found "reasonable" a bill calling for the abolition of the Regional Wages and Productivity Boards in favor of a National Wage Council.

Tiglao said the President is likely to endorse the bill to be filed by party-list Rep. Etta Rosales.

"The President said she found the proposal reasonable and she asked the labor leaders and Ms Rosales to provide her with the final proposal and she'll seriously consider it," Tiglao said.

"The essence of the bill would be to change the setting of the minimum wage from a regional level to one by industry," he said.

Tiglao said setting wages by industry was more desirable since profit levels and wage requirements differ from one industry to another.

As the luncheon was going on, KMU members staged a "lightning" rally outside Malacañang to press for the P125 across-the-board wage hike.

KMU said the value of the P250 daily minimum wage has eroded so much it is now worth only P155 in actual goods and services.

"Wages are even much lower in the provinces and the guilty parties here are the regional wage boards which have grounded workers' wages," said Emilia Dapulang, KMU vice president.

"If only the President would care to look at the prices of basic commodities nowadays, and ask ordinary wage earners and market-goers, then she would discover that the prices of goods have already gone up by a few pesos since last week," Dapulang said.

In a press statement, Victor Briz, president of the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, said the government must not allow price hikes and high taxes to erode the value of wages and reduce workers' take-home pay to below the cost of living.

Real value of wages

"If the state cannot protect the real value of wages, it must mandate wage increases proportionate to the increase in the cost of living," Briz said.

He said Trade Secretary Mar Roxas' proposal that workers in small and medium-scale enterprises be given apprentices' wages was an "indecent proposal."

He said Roxas should instead push for progressive taxation that would exempt workers earning less than the cost of living from having to pay withholding taxes.

Government should also subsidize workers' contributions to social security in order to raise their take-home pay, Briz added.

He said that "in order to recoup lost revenue, the government should raise taxes from the rich and big business."

Sen. Juan Flavier has filed a bill mandating a wage hike of P125 nationwide, but Malacañang and the Department of Labor and Employment have maintained that petitions for wage increases should be filed before the Regional Tripartite Wage and Productivity Boards.

The latest study by the National Wages and Productivity Commission showed a wage of P509 daily or P15,269 monthly was needed to support a family just above the subsistence level.

John O factor stalls Senate deal

By Armand N. Nocum

THE UNSEEMLY squabbling for the Senate presidency among administration senators looked like it was being solved yesterday with Sen. Joker Arroyo agreeing to withdraw from contention, leaving Senators Franklin Drilon and Renato Cayetano—sharing a three-year term—as the likely common candidates.

Drilon's insistence, however, on giving the powerful finance committee to independent Sen. John Osmeña remained a stumbling bloc, said Sen. Juan Flavier, who is brokering talks among the rival administration senators.

But interviewed yesterday afternoon, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr.—the fourth PPC bet—denied that a deal had been struck.

"I just talked to (Sen. Loren Legarda), she told me that the talks have collapsed," he said.

Yesterday, the "House bloc" in the Senate met with President Macapagal-Arroyo to inform her about the problem they were having with Drilon.

Senators from the People Power Coalition are concerned that Osmeña's entry into the party could lead the way for the wholesale acceptance of other opposition senators.

Private meeting

In Malacañang, Palace spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the President held a "private meeting" with Arroyo and the other neophyte senators—Manuel Villar, Francis Pangilinan and Ralph Recto.

Asked to comment on reports that Cayetano was the PPC's choice for Senate President, Tiglao said: "The last I heard was that she was supporting (Sen. Franklin) Drilon."

Flavier said four separate meetings with those administration senators who are "non-contenders," and then with Arroyo, Cayetano, and a phone conversation with Drilon yesterday resulted in the positive developments.

These include:

- Drilon agreeing to a power sharing.
- Cayetano agreeing to let Drilon serve the first half of the term.
- Joker agreeing to give way to the two, but may get either the post of majority leader, Senate president pro tempore or chair of the blue ribbon committee.
- Sen. Manuel Villar agreeing to give the finance committee to Sen. Sergio Osmeña, provided he is appointed Senate president pro tempore.

Monkey wrench

But Drilon's insistence on John Osmeña has thrown a monkey wrench on these positive developments, Flavier said.

Cayetano is pushing for Serge Osmeña to head the committee while Arroyo wants Villar.

Drilon has declined to talk to the INQUIRER, but a source close to him said that it was John Osmeña who first approached Drilon to offer his vote.

He said Drilon was not likely to break his word with Osmeña.

But Recto would have none of John Osmeña. He said Drilon has a lot of explaining to do on why he chose John Osmeña over other equally competent PPC senators.

Recto said he could not imagine a situation where "you have more LDP senators in the PPC coalition than Lakas-NUCD senators."

He feared the possibility that the opposition could decide to support Drilon and John Osmeña, with the latter's hold on the Senate purse.

"Here you have a situation where the LDP may have a win-win situation. If Angara loses, they win with Drilon. They win either way," he said, adding that a powerful John Osmeña would boost the opposition's return as the "majority" bloc in the Senate.

SPEAKERSHIP FIGHT

Abad won't give in; PPC breakup seen

By Rocky Nazareno

THE BREAKUP of the People Power Coalition appeared inevitable after Rep. Florencio Abad (LP, Batanes) yesterday refused to back down from his challenge to Rep. Jose de Venecia (Lakas, Pangasinan) for the speakership of the 12th Congress.

"I am still a candidate for speaker, we will go for it," Abad told House reporters.

Abad claimed to have at least 60 votes, mostly from Liberal Party and Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino congressmen, to De Venecia's earlier report of having the support of at least 183 representatives. The membership of the 12th Congress could still rise over 228 depending on the tally of party-list votes.

Abad said there was "no more room for reconciliation (with the PPC) at this point with only five days before Congress opens on Monday."

The LP, Lakas, Promdi, Aksyon Demokratiko and Reporma parties make up the administration's PPC.

The election for speaker and deputy speakers will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, or just hours before Congress formally opens.

"The logical consequence (of a loss) is I will be minority floor leader. We will be critical yet constructive in the House," Abad said.

Abad also admitted he was aiming for the chairmanship of the powerful House committee on appropriations.

"But it seems (the Lakas leadership) has promised that position to (Camarines Sur) Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr.," Abad said.

The lobbying by Abad for the committee chairmanship has drawn criticism from Lakas, particularly from Albay Rep. Joey Salceda.

In a statement, Salceda said Abad's fight for the speakership was "not about new politics" but about his desire to land the chairmanship of the powerful committee.

He said "all Abad wanted was the chairmanship of the committee on appropriations, no less, in exchange for withdrawing his candidacy for speaker."

The Lakas camp had tried to keep Abad in the PPC by offering him the chairmanship of the appropriations committee for the first 15 months of the 12th Congress.

After 15 months, he was to exchange posts with Palawan Rep. Vicente Sandoval who was tapped to head the House delegation in the Commission on Appointments. Abad nixed the offer, however.

With Juliet L. Javellana

Haydee: PCGG won't yield to Palace pressure

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government yesterday warned Malacañang against exerting any undue influence on the investigation of the controversial couple Irene Marcos-Araneta and her husband Greggy.

PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac said she would report "any improper and untoward pressure" from First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, who is a cousin of Greggy, concerning the alleged $13.4-billion Irene Arenetta account in Switzerland.

In her first press conference yesterday, Yorac said she would squeal on the government should there be any abusive exercise of power from Malacañang.

"The husband of the president has no public authority and does not hold any public office," she said when asked if Mike Arroyo's affinity to Greggy could affect the PCGG's pursuit of the reported hidden billions.

"On our part, we are charged by law to do certain things. If there is any improper and untoward pressure, we will tell you about it," said the woman lawyer who has previously served in the Commission on Human Rights and Commission on Elections.

Some sectors have expressed concern that Greggy's blood ties to the president's husband could affect the government's inquiry into the existence of the Swiss account and the couple's failed money laundering scheme in Germany.

This after Mike Arroyo was seen huddling with Greggy in a popular hangout of the rich and famous at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, but Mr. Arroyo said they did not talk about the Marcos cases at any instance.

"The PCGG will not be pressured by Malacañang," Yorac declared on her second day in office at the PCGG. She was officially appointed head of the anti-Marcos agency on Tuesday.

UNIONBANK

SSS-Makati Bldg., Ayala Ave., cor. Herrera St., Makati City

A full-service universal bank with 114 branches
A partnership among the Aboitiz Group, Insular Life Assurance Co. and Social Security System

STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Head Office and Branches)
As of June 22, 2001

ASSETS		
Cash & Cash Items	P	709,441,280
Due from Bangko Sentral		728,333,463
Due from Other Banks		7,860,569,326
Interbank Loans Receivable		1,220,438,782
Trading Account Securities (Net)		628,946,260
Investments in Bonds & Other Debt Instruments (Net)		15,358,346,744
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		15,250,564,849
Equity Investments (Net)		364,890,231
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		2,054,309,565
Other Assets (Net)		7,845,886,505
Property Owned/Acquired		4,509,843,736
Others		3,336,042,769
TOTAL ASSETS	P	52,021,727,005
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	7,648,169,734
Savings Deposits		10,311,491,319
Time Deposits		10,103,475,093
Special/Other Deposits		25,705,457
Due to Bangko Sentral		7,217,069
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		713,482,422
Bills Payable:		6,970,046,091
BSP – Rediscounts/Special Programs		19,045,668
Interbank Borrowings		5,603,228,703
Others		1,347,771,720
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits		537,258,432
Other Liabilities		3,265,704,715
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	39,582,550,332
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	7,087,057,923
Surplus		5,302,809,661
Surplus Reserves		49,309,089
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	12,439,176,673
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	52,021,727,005
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	402,384,223
Bills for Collection		162,661,609
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		8,880,422,088
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		2,241,500,137
Assets Held under Trust & Investment Management Agreements		4,443,778,034
Invested in:		
Government Securities		1,325,138,172
Other Securities, Debt Instruments And Shares of Stocks		243,406,638
Loans & Discounts		14,587,687
Other Assets		2,860,645,537
Accountabilities:		
Trust & Other Fiduciary		3,365,366,691
Common Trust Funds		232,038,059
Investment/Fund Management		846,373,284
Other Contingent Accounts		75,404,665
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	16,206,150,756

Other Information

1. Deposits of:		
a) Government	P	272,247,447
b) Banks		129,307,613
c) Trust Department		1,714,469,679
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law: Prescribed		
Ratio of Compliance	6% for Small Enterprises	2% for Medium Enterprises
Actual Compliance	243%	468%
3. Amount of non-performing loans		2,865,941,373
4. Ratio of non-performing loans to total loan portfolio		15.81%
5. Amount of classified loans and other risk assets		6,222,300,414
6. General provision for loan losses		555,807,525
7. Specific provision for loan losses		1,079,703,690
8. Return on Equity (ROE)		5.74%
9. Amount of DOSRI loans/advances		620,323,195
10. Ratio of DOSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio		3.42%
11. Amount of past due DOSRI loans/advances		12,421
12. Ratio of past due DOSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio		0.00

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
) S.S.

We, BENJAMIN G. BERNAS and VICTOR B. VALDEPEÑAS of the abovementioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd) BENJAMIN G. BERNAS
First Vice President

(Sgd) VICTOR B. VALDEPEÑAS
President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 11th day of July, affiants exhibiting to me their Community Tax No. 10765056 issued at Paranaque City on March 08, 2001 and Community Tax No. 06107698 issued at Quezon City on February 10, 2001, respectively.

MIGUEL B. PADERNAL
NOTARY PUBLIC
UNTIL DEC. 31, 2001
PTR NO. 1956380
JAN. 2, 2000
MAKATI CITY

Doc. No. 172
Page No. 36
Book No. XXVIII
Series of 2001.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Bank and Financial Subsidiaries)
As of June 22, 2001

ASSETS		
Cash & Cash Items	P	709,778,015
Due from Bangko Sentral		728,333,463
Due from Other Banks		7,860,569,326
Interbank Loans Receivable		1,220,438,782
Trading Account Securities (Net)		650,221,074
Investments in Bonds & Other Debt Instruments (Net)		15,358,346,744
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		14,929,284,474
Equity Investments (Net)		75,921,932
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		2,063,301,504
Other Assets (Net)		8,379,192,552
Property Owned/Acquired		4,509,843,736
Others		3,869,348,816
TOTAL ASSETS	P	51,975,387,866
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	7,574,748,672
Savings Deposits		10,284,205,985
Time Deposits		10,103,475,093
Special/Other Deposits		25,705,457
Due to Bangko Sentral		7,217,069
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		713,482,422
Bills Payable:		6,970,546,091
BSP – Rediscounts/Special Programs		19,045,668
Interbank Borrowings		5,603,228,703
Others		1,348,271,720
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits		537,258,432
Other Liabilities		3,319,571,972
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	39,536,211,193
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	7,087,057,923
Surplus		5,302,809,661
Surplus Reserves		49,309,089
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	12,439,176,673
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	51,975,387,866
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	402,384,223
Bills for Collection		162,661,609
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		8,880,422,088
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		2,241,500,137
Assets Held under Trust & Investment Management Agreements		4,443,778,034
Invested in:		
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Other Securities, Debt Instruments And Shares of Stocks		243,406,638
Loans & Discounts		14,587,687
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Other Information

1. Deposits of:		
a) Government	P	272,247,447
b) Banks		129,307,613
c) Trust Department		1,714,469,679
2. List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries:		
a) UnionBank Currency Brokers Corporation		
b) UBP Capital Corporation		
c) UBP Securities, Inc.		

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Doc. No. 171
Page No. 36
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Series of 2001.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Chairman and CEO

VICENTE R. AYLLON
Vice Chairman

JON RAMON M. ABOITIZ
Vice Chairman

ERRAMON I. ABOITIZ

ARMAND F. BRAUN, JR.

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Corporate Secretary

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VICTOR B. VALDEPEÑAS
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EDWIN R. BAUTISTA

TEODORO M. PANGANIBAN

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Executive Vice Presidents

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Desierto asks Sandigan to censure Loi, Jinggoy

By Michael Lim Ubac

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto has asked the Sandiganbayan to also censure former first lady, now senator, Luisa "Loi" Ejercito and her son Jinggoy Estrada for insinuating that the judiciary, and the anti-graft court in particular, was controlled by Malacañang.

Desierto will formally file today a petition seeking to censure the Estrada family and the defense panel for allegedly "insulting" the integrity, independence and competence of the Sandigan justices, who are trying ex-President Joseph Estrada and his son, Jinggoy, for plunder, illegal possession of firearms and perjury.

"They are taking the court lightly. They are demeaning the solemn proceedings (at the Sandigan)," Desierto told reporters in a press briefing yesterday.

Desierto said Ejercito and the younger Estrada could be censured for saying that they were being "persecuted" by the Macapagal-Arroyo administration.

The two have also claimed that President Macapagal-Arroyo was conditioning the public to the detained ex-president's eventually being convicted of plunder, an offense punishable by death.

The Estrada father and son made the comments on television after Ms Macapagal said in answer to a hypothetical question that she would be inclined to commute Estrada's death sentence if he were to be convicted.

On Tuesday, Desierto announced that the prosecution, which he leads, would ask the court to reprimand the ex-president and his defense lawyers for allegedly casting doubt on the integrity of the court.

Yesterday, Desierto said he had decided to include Ejercito and Jinggoy after the prosecution was convinced that the two had indeed issued the offending statements.

Desierto's petition will be anchored on three grounds:

- Mr. Estrada's claim that he cannot expect fair and impartial trial before the Sandiganbayan.
- Mrs. Ejercito and Jinggoy's claim that they were being persecuted by the Macapagal-Arroyo administration.
- Mrs. Ejercito and Jinggoy's claim that Ms Macapagal was conditioning the minds of the public and of the Sandigan justices to the elder Estrada's being eventually convicted.

"These statements are reckless. They are issued in utter disregard for the court and they also undermine the integrity and dignity of the court," Desierto said.

He said the court should not take the statements lightly but should reprimand the Estradas and their lawyers.

"It's high time that the court draws the line... to defend itself," said Desierto, stressing that failure to act on the petition would have long-term effects on the proceedings.

Spratlys claimants close to agreement on code of conduct

BEIJING—Asian nations are close to agreeing on rules to govern their conduct in the disputed South China Sea, a Chinese Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

China and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are expected to discuss the code next week at a meeting in Vietnam, said Fu Ying, director of the Foreign Ministry's Asia Department.

Asean is made up of Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei, Thailand, Laos, Burma, Vietnam and Cambodia.

"We've covered most of the items for a code of conduct and consensus has been reached, I think, on the majority of the elements," Fu said at a briefing for reporters on the meeting.

"I don't know yet if there will be a final conclusion but I think it's near, it's not very difficult," she said.

The South China Sea is considered one of Asia's most dangerous potential flash points. Six governments have conflicting claims in the area. Busy shipping lanes pass through the South China Sea, which also has rich fishing grounds and is thought to lie atop oil and gas deposits.

Fu said some Asean countries disagree about which areas should be covered by the code of conduct, but did not say which countries. *AP*

Jinggoy has injured heart, docs say

By Donna S. Cueto

DOCTORS at the Makati Medical Center have recommended that Jinggoy Estrada be allowed to remain at the hospital so he could undergo more tests to rule out any serious heart ailment.

Dr. Roberto Anastacio, Estrada's cardiologist, said test results showed a high level of the enzyme creatinine phosphokinase (CPK), an indication of heart injury or a previous heart attack.

Jinggoy was taken to the Makati Medical Center for tests on July 12 on the recommendation of his doctors.

Jinggoy and his father, ex-President Joseph Estrada, who are being preventively detained following the filing of court charges against them, have been "confined" at the Veterans Memorial Hospital since early May.

The Sandiganbayan's 3rd Division will hear today a motion from Estrada's lawyers asking the court to allow the Estradas to go home and prepare for trial and pre-trial in the perjury case.

Anastacio said in his report to Sandiganbayan Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr. that there was a possibility the younger Estrada's heart condition could become serious, citing these risk factors—"heavy consumption of cigarettes, obesity and hypertension."

An earlier report on GMA-7 quoted Dr. Anastacio as saying that Jinggoy suffered a heart attack three months ago, which left his heart "injured."

But Jinggoy apparently "did not feel" the attack.

The doctor described the former mayor as "a 38-year-old male with a problem of labile hypertension, vague chest discomfort with a family history of hypertension."

$1.4-B Metro rail project OKd

THE GOVERNMENT said Wednesday it plans an ambitious $1.41 billion mass-transit project aimed at easing the monstrous traffic problem for Metro Manila's 10 million residents.

President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered speedy implementation of the Medium-Term Transportation Development Plan for railways in the sprawling capital after the project was presented to her Cabinet on Tuesday, a government statement said.

The plan was among the recommendations in a study on an integrated urban transportation system for Metro Manila up to 2015. The study was funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Metro Manila, which covers 17 cities and municipalities, has one of the worst traffic problems in Southeast Asia, and its air is rapidly getting worse. The Manila-based Asian Development Bank said in 1997 that vehicle and industrial emissions pose severe health hazards, particularly to children and the elderly.

The rail project includes upgrading and increasing the efficiency of existing commuter lines. The statement did not specify the source of funding.

The first of seven rail projects involves a P10.48 billion ($194 million) plan to increase the daily capacity of the 15-km Light Rail Transit system from 400,000 to 1 million passengers. The winning bidder is expected to be announced next month.

A P420 million (P7.8 million) project to automate the fare payment system on that line, which runs through central Manila, is expected to be completed in September.

The 15-year-old line also would be extended to southern towns and suburbs under a project that would cost about $97 million.

The government also plans to build a 14-km east-west line between Manila's Divisoria district and suburban Pasig by 2004 as a cost of P31.4 billion.

The Light Rail Transit will be connected in four years to Manila's newest line, the Metro Rail Transit, under a P270 million project. That will complete the rail loop above Rizal Avenue and Edsa highway, the main arteries of the metropolis.

The government also plans to rehabilitate a 50-km commuter line between Manila and Calamba, Laguna, by 2006 at a cost of about P14.2 billion.

A 22-kilometer (13.8-mile) line is also planned to link Manila and Novaliches district to the north, but the government statement gave no details on the project. *AP*

Chanco, veteran scribe; 79

MARIO "Mao" Chanco, a veteran journalist and one of the early Filipino environmentalists, died on Tuesday. He was 79.

Mao, as he was fondly known to his many friends in journalism and government, worked with a number of local newspapers in a career that spanned more than 60 years. He was a reporter of the Manila Daily Bulletin covering Manila City Hall during the colorful years of the late Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson. He wrote columns for the Manila Times, Evening Post, Philippine Daily Star (pre martial law tabloid), Manila Evening News, the Manila Chronicle and other newspapers. He was, at the time of his death, a columnist of Business World, for a column entitled "It's Only Money."

A co-founder and Charter member of the National Press Club, Mao was also the original host of the pre-martial law television program of the press club, "Meet the Press," where his wit and tongue-in-cheek side comments kept politicians' pomposity at a minimum.

Mao had a multi-awarded career. He was among the first group of Ten Outstanding Young Men Awardees in 1965, for his work as a journalist. He was also the first Philippine Smith-Mundt Grantee in 1952, an Esso-Stanvac Journalism Awardee in 1960, a Catholic Mass Media awardee as best columnist for 1984 and a Rotary Journalist of the Year awardee for agricultural journalism in 1987.

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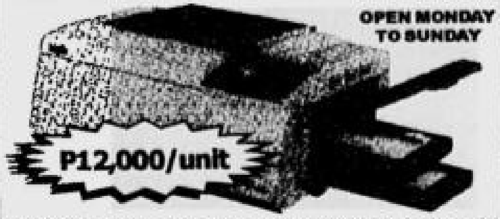

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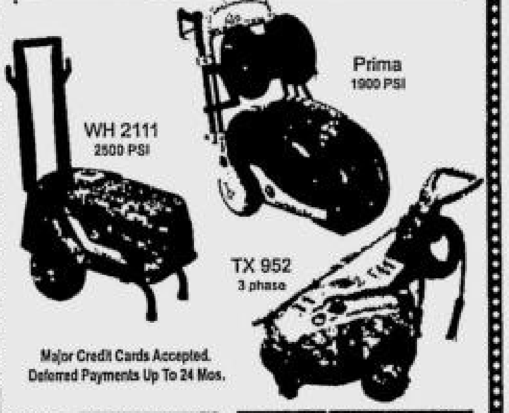

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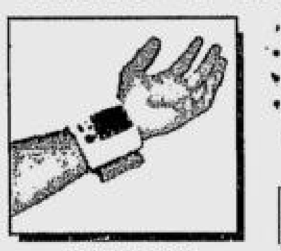

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EDITORIALS

Odd proposal

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs has asked the Australian government to allow our own police officers "to help" the Australian police in the investigation of the murder of lawyer Teddy Gonzales, his wife and daughter in Sydney.

While Filipinos in the homeland are shocked over brutal crimes against their compatriots overseas—as they were outraged over the execution of Flor Contemplacion in Singapore—we can't see how Filipino policemen could help solve the multiple murder case in Sydney. Sending Filipino crime investigators to Sydney is not anymore useful than dropping at the Sydney Opera House Philippine media contingents to report the crime from a Filipino point of view, carrying in their backpacks a load of cultural baggage.

The result of this one-day parachute journalism is a flow of reports based on vicious gossip in the Filipino community there, obviously from Filipinos who are resentful of the success of Gonzales as well as intrigues that poison relationships among Filipinos themselves.

The instant reports of these fly-by-night media snoops pander to Filipino prejudices in the homeland and audiences whose thinking have been conditioned by telenovelas. They are next to useless in police investigations. Get Filipinos into a murder case or a crime investigation and it is certain they will make a mess of it.

The case requires sensitive handling by media instead of being turned into another exercise to improve TV ratings because it could kindle prejudices and unwarranted speculations that won't solve the crime. Journalistic scavenging is the last thing the investigation needs.

The murder of the Gonzales family is cast against the background of Filipinos overseas adapting themselves to a foreign culture and environment. In the process of adaptation, they suffer culture shock. The Gonzaleses were essentially economic migrants. They left the country after the big earthquake of 1990 devastated their business. They sought a change of milieu and a new life in Australia to escape the trauma of economic dislocation in the homeland. Although they took Australian citizenship, they were essentially economic refugees not unlike the millions of overseas Filipino workers in the diaspora from a homeland in which opportunities for improving their standard of living have been reduced.

One of the DFA's responsibilities to the overseas Filipinos is to see to it that their rights are protected and they would not be victims of abuse. Since the Gonzaleses were Australian citizens, the primary responsibility for rendering justice to them belongs to the Australian government. Even if the Philippine government would like to show it is not indifferent to the plight of overseas Filipinos, there's nothing it can do to help solve the crime.

Australian police are more competent and objective than our own police. The enforcement of the rule of law in Australia is more egalitarian than in this country. Our police can't add anything in terms of solving crimes to the Australian police. We should leave the Australian authorities alone.

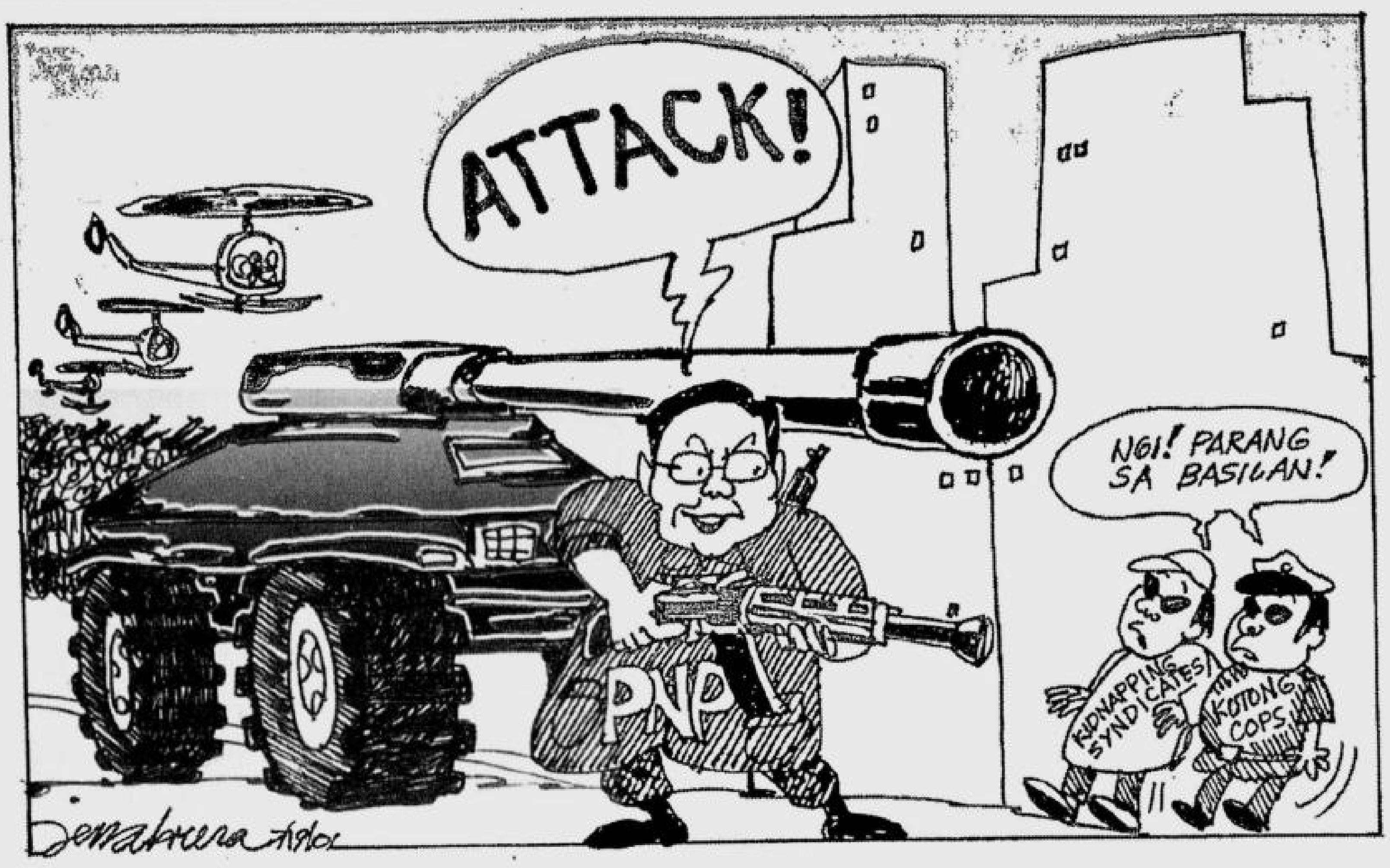
Still, sending our policemen to may not be an entirely useless exercise. They will be given an opportunity to see for themselves how the Australian police work and how the Australian judicial system is not like ours. It is fair, impersonal, competent and efficient.

Odd motion

OTHER odd things are happening in this country. There have already been more than 68 motions peppering the plunder and perjury charges filed against deposed President Joseph Estrada—all of them causing delay in his trial before the Sandiganbayan.

The ace of the defense case is its petition to declare the anti-plunder law unconstitutional. If the defense lawyers had their way, the trial would be suspended pending a decision from the Supreme Court on this issue.

Without commenting on the merits of the petition, we are struck by how minds can change over the application of the law. The law was enacted 10 years ago. Nobody thought about whether it was constitutional or not until it was applied to Estrada, who was one of its authors when he was a senator. But then the first to be convicted under the anti-plunder law was a mere cashier of the Bureau of Internal Revenue. Dominga Manalili, who was meted out a long sentence by the Quezon City Regional Trial Court last May, happens to be a small fish.



Solutions to unemployment by Pimentel, Angara, J de V

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

(FOLLOWING is the continuation of yesterday's column.)

Except for the above-described proposed changes, said the explanatory note to the new bill, "all other operational aspects in the refining and importing sector will remain substantially the same. The marketing sector will not be affected at all.

"With the establishment of the OilEx, we would now know the actual landed cost of every RPP, down to the last centavo, unlike the present situation where only the oil companies know the price, thus providing them the opportunity to overprice their products. Knowing this, therefore, the local oil companies, (including the Big 3) will find it very hard to overprice their RPPs because we would now know from their pump prices if their mark-ups (marketing cost recovery plus profit margin) are reasonable. Furthermore, the local downstream oil industry can and will remain deregulated."

The establishment of the OilEx will achieve, all at the same time, the mandates of the Constitution, the Oil Deregulation Law and the World Trade Organization. And conversely, said Garcia in his explanatory note, "the Constitution, the Oil Deregulation Law and the WTO all mandate its establishment."

Here's why:

1. The mandate of the WTO is to remove all trade barriers and enable foreign products to freely enter and compete with local products so that prices will go down to the benefit of consumers.

2. The mandate of the Oil Deregulation Law is not only to allow but also to promote the entry of new participants so that a truly competitive market with fair and reasonable prices can be achieved.

3. The Constitution mandates the State to prohibit monopolies (which a cartel also is) and restraints in trade to protect the public.

* * *

The three leading contenders in the races for the Senate presidency and the speakership were the guests at last Monday's Kapihan sa Manila. They were asked what were their legislative agenda to solve the unemployment and economic problems of the country. Happily, unlike most other legislators, they have proposed solutions which are quite clear and simple in their minds.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. will export more skilled Filipino manpower because there is a big demand for them in other countries—and he is not referring to Filipino domestics, laborers and entertainers. He means professionals. In the United Kingdom alone, Pimentel said, there is a demand for 14,000 registered nurses and almost as many teachers. If we can't employ our nurses and teachers here, or pay them enough, let's send them abroad, Pimentel said. Other countries like the United States need more computer programmers.

But won't that result in a brain drain here? Pimentel's answer: All we have to do is train more nurses and teachers and other skilled workers we need.

Sen. Edgardo Angara's solution is to open up one million hectares of idle government land. At a very conservative estimate of creating one job for every hectare, that would create at least one million jobs, he said.

When he was agriculture secretary, Angara said, his department had already identified these lands: 650,000 hectares in Mindanao, 100,000 hectares in Negros-Panay, another 100,000 hectares in Samar-Leyte, and the rest in Cagayan Valley.

What crops are they going to plant? Angara said they canvassed all the big corporations as to their needs. Their answer: corn and cassava for animal feed. We import more than P500-million worth of yellow corn a year. Angara said they were ready to implement this plan when Edsa II intervened. He recommended that the new administration follow through with the plan.

Angara said this plan will alleviate poverty in the rural areas, which is much worse than in the urban areas. We see the urban poor living in hovels but they are better off than the poor in the rural areas. That is why the rural poor migrate to the urban areas where they overload the capacity of the local governments to provide with basic services. Improve life in the rural areas and you solve the squatting problem in the urban areas, too, he said.

Rep. Jose de Venecia's plan is to plant one billion trees, among other things. "A one-hectare tree plantation," he said, "could produce as much as P1.2 million worth of lumber after 7 to 12 years. Fruit-bearing trees can yield incomes of similar magnitudes with longer income streams."

De Venecia is perhaps the only legislator who has a complete economic program which he calls "The 747 Plan." It stands for "seven percent growth in seven years."

"Growth at that level—for that long a period—should propel our economy to self-sustaining growth and reduce Filipino mass poverty drastically," said De Venecia.

"If GNP per head can grow by 4.5 to 5 percent—equivalent to gross GNP of 7 percent (allowing for population growth of some 2 percent)—then the average Filipino will cross the threshold to middle-class status in about 10 years, even assuming that income distribution remains unchanged," De Venecia explained. Achieving this target is difficult, he admits, "but not impossible. Our neighbor-countries have all achieved—even exceeded—this target over decades."

But where do we get the money to fund the proposals? There is plenty of money if you only know where to look, according to De Venecia and Angara. For starters there is P3 billion in Erap Bonds, $1.5 billion in unused commodity loans, P100 billion in assets held by the Presidential Commission on Good Government, P270 billion in non-performing assets of commercial banks—which can be used for mass housing—and $10 billion in projected revenues from the Malampaya gas project.

We will know President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's plans when she delivers her State of the Nation Address on Monday.

* * *

Comments are welcome at asiseeit@pacific.net.ph

What's old about the new politics

WINDMILLS

Jerry Barican

IT is easy for voters to be cynical over the "new" politics in Congress, principally because it looks suspiciously like the old. The "old" politics featured Joe de Venecia. The "new" politics features, well, Joe de Venecia. The "old" politics had no liberals or conservatives, no free traders or statists, no issue divide, just the politics of self-interest. The "new" politics proudly stands 360 degrees away from the past. So does it make a difference who is elected to lead Congress? The surprising answer is yes.

If what the administration is looking for in a speaker is sheer ability and the capacity to produce legislation, then Rep. Jose de Venecia is their man. While he was speaker throughout Fidel Ramos' presidency, De Venecia was the Lyndon Johnson of Philippine politics: When he said there would be legislation, the House produced it. True, he does look like an old "tradpol" and he is often too verbose for his own good. But then, he appears to have no further political ambitions beyond the speakership. And he exudes the politics of joy, bubbling with pragmatic ideas and infectious confidence that are sorely lacking in times like these.

Although the fight for the speakership is by most accounts over, Rep. Butch Abad offers another, perhaps more contemporary, image. He belongs to a generation younger than his opponent's and exudes an image that is more new than traditional. He is articulate but in a low-key fashion. He is decent and sportsmanlike. But even he has not been able to transcend the wholesale horsetrading necessary to win election and the almost entire subordination of vision to *realpolitik*.

Fortunately, or unfortunately, the group that could resolve these dilemmas, or else compound them, has not been seated. There is no group in the House that is more capable of turning tradition on its head—for better or for worse—than the four dozen or so sectoral representatives. Once they are seated, they will increasingly play a more constructive—or disruptive—role in the structure, workings and output of the House. But for the meantime, they sit sidelined on the benches while their status is sorted out by the Comelec and the courts.

In a situation like that, it is not surprising that Malacañang would prefer to see installed a House leadership that it can rely upon to produce its bidding. The speaker, in comparative parliamentary terms, is the leader of the House and the chief whip. His job, after ensuring that he keeps it, is to see to it that Malacañang's bills are passed quickly and with minimal changes, that the president's nominees are confirmed, that the administration's budget is passed, and that the congressmen are kept happy. The last item on the list is clearly related to the previous ones.

If the speaker is the whip, who crafts the program he whips through? Under our system, it is the task of the Executive Department to create the vision and for the speaker to carry to passage the legislation needed to fulfil it. With the turmoil of Edsa and the distraction of the election behind us, the President now has the opportunity to articulate that vision clearly during her State of the Nation Address.

That vision is indispensable: "We do not choose," John Kennedy said in his 1960 campaign, "to be like the leader of the French Revolution who said, 'There go my people, I must find out where they are going so that I can lead them.'" The President has proven her management skills and her dedication. She now needs to broaden and elucidate upon the themes she so eloquently put forth in her inaugural speech.

If "new" politics is not to be a mere catch phrase, we need, for instance, laws on campaign finance reform. Few things would be more significant in changing the way we govern ourselves than changing the way we finance our candidates. As Deep Throat said during Watergate, "Follow the money." And when everything is a priority, nothing is. The President needs to define the two or three items she intends to focus on for the remaining three years of her term.

Unlike the House, which with its method of election by district is dependent upon Malacañang's release of funds, the Senate is composed of 24 sovereign republics. Generally, and except for tone, it makes little difference to the public who the Senate president is because he has far less ability to persuade or coerce his colleagues than does his House counterpart. In the House it pays to be with the administration. In the Senate, it is easier being in the opposition, and therefore in the news.

The real significance of the Senate presidency is political. Should Vice President Teofisto Guingona retire in 2004 (if he chooses instead to run and he wins, he will leave office in his 80s), whoever heads the Senate, if he comes from the administration party, will have an edge in securing his party's nomination for the No. 2 job. And if history is any guide, the odds favor the incumbent vice president elected in 2004 for the presidency in 2010. Hence the scramble.

When all is said and done, the President needs to help install faithful and able associates in the leadership of Congress. If they are faithful but less than able, her programs will lie dead in legislative waters. If they are able but scheming, she will waste much of her invaluable time playing politics rather than governing.

But beyond that, she must tell her standard bearers in Congress in which direction she wants to go. In this time of crisis shall we be economically introspective and protective, or shall we gear up to compete internationally no matter what the pain? What role will the government and the private sector respectively play? How do we reconcile the imperatives of investment and business with the need to help the poor? Is there still hope in the face of discouraging worldwide developments? The President needs to embolden and to inspire us. The nation awaits her words in the State of the Nation Address before Congress so that she may show us the road forward.

Fight over appropriations, finance committees

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

WHAT seems to be the bone of contention, judging from the reports in the INQUIRER yesterday, is the most powerful committee in each chamber of Congress, next only to the post of Senate chief or House speaker. In the House, this is the committee on appropriations whose Senate counterpart is the committee on finance. In Congress, the committee that deals with finance deals with power. The legislator who holds that post wields enormous power.

* * *

The INQUIRER report said that some People Power Coalition senators object to the election of Sen. Franklin Drilon as Senate president because he has been lobbying to give the finance committee chairmanship to Sen. John Osmeña, his longtime ally who was very closely associated with deposed President Estrada. Osmeña held this post in the last Congress, but the PPC senators feel it should not go to him now, though he turned his back on Erap after the May 1 assault on Malacañang. The PPC senators feel the position should go to one of them.

On the other hand, reports say that President Macapagal is trying to convince Rep. Butch Abad to give up the fight for the speakership in return for the appropriations committee—an indication of just how big a plum that committee is. But reports also say that the camp of Rep. Jose de Venecia is not willing to give it to Abad, since the former has already promised it to Lakas partymate, Rep. Vicente Sandoval, who has withdrawn from the race for the speakership.

It would be interesting to see which side will give way in these political jousts.

* * *

The fight for this committee is a good occasion to pay tribute to a former House member who held the post for 11 years, Rep. Rolando Andaya of Camarines Sur, who succumbed to a lingering illness two weeks ago. Andaya, a lawyer-CPA, remained unchallenged in that post; it was regarded as tailor-made for him. During the necrological services for him, many of his former colleagues lauded his skills in steering that powerful committee with erudition, grace and charm. Andaya is sorely missed in the House.

* * *

The crisis abroad that, as Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and the Palace were warning about, is pulling down an already weakened peso is the Argentine crisis. The situation is also referred to as the reemergence of the "Latin-American syndrome." Argentina, the second largest country in Latin America, is reeling from an economic crisis stemming from an onerous debt burden and three years of economic stagnation. Its local and foreign debt amounts to a staggering $130 billion, an amount that financial experts regard as unsustainable. They agree that it's only a matter of time before the Argentine government must acknowledge that it cannot service this debt.

Latin America has experienced financial crises in the 1970s. One can recall the crises that hit Brazil and Peru.

* * *

But the experts are keenly watching the Argentine crisis as this could be a big one. Experts maintain that the last time a big country defaulted on its debt was in August of 1998 when Russia, gripped by a political crisis, held its hands up and said it couldn't make the payments. Russia's default caused worldwide financial chaos, adding to the woes of Asia which was then still reeling from its own financial crisis triggered by Thailand in July 1997.

The good thing about the Argentine crisis is that it didn't catch the world by surprise, the world having watched it over the past three years. Thus, IMF officials feel that many other emerging markets, notably Mexico and Brazil, are today better able to withstand the aftershocks from an Argentine default than they were several years ago. Still, as experts have pointed out, one never knows what kind of "nasty surprises" may still come. For instance, Brazil's currency is said to have sunk to an all-time low.

* * *

The bad thing about the Argentine crisis is that weak currencies such as our peso are being affected. The peso is buffeted by the regional and world market forces, including the recession in our second-largest trading partner, Japan. There are also the homegrown crises such as the Abu Sayyaf and to a much-lesser degree now the Erap trial as well as speculative attacks on the peso by business firms and banks.

Let's pray the peso stabilizes as its repercussions on business are tremendous. The trouble is that people don't care for explanations about the factors pulling the peso down. All they see is that the peso is tumbling and they associate this with bad economics. Also people know that we have an economist in Malacañang so she is under tremendous pressure to shore up the peso and fix the economy.

* * *

It must have been embarrassing for Sen. Loi Ejercito to hear her cell phone ringing in the middle of her first press conference with the Senate media to the tune of "Gloria Labandera." The press reported that Loi laughed "mischievously" when it happened. That certainly didn't help the new *senadora* any, as it made her look undignified. *Parang hindi* former first lady.

On the other hand, Loi's remark that she'll grab the front seat right across from the presidential podium at the opening of Congress next Monday, to see President Macapagal's "body language" suggests too much self-esteem, which has little basis. Loi is insinuating that Ms Macapagal would be disturbed by her presence during the State of the Nation Address. She must have forgotten that Ms Macapagal has visited Erap in his detention place twice, and apparently she was not disturbed about making eye-to-eye contact with him. What makes Loi think that she could unnerve Ms Macapagal by sitting in front of her? Presidential Spokesperson Bobi Tiglao did the right thing: he said Ms Macapagal was too busy to mind the news report about Loi's cell phone.

* * *

Whoever advised Ms Macapagal to use that ditty of the Erap rallies and make it work for her deserves a bonus or at least a lunch from her. Her remark that her paternal grandmother was a real-life *labandera* who had to wash other people's clothes to earn money to raise Cong Dadong and the rest of the brood enabled Ms Macapagal to connect to the *masa*. Now a soap bar from Unilever with the label "Gloria Labandera" will be among the relief goods Ms Macapagal's people will be distributing to the *masa*.

Will the center hold?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THIS early, just a little over six months after President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took office and before she could even deliver her first State of the Nation Address, the fragile coalition that paved her way to power is threatening to break apart.

And as with any coming together of diverse forces, it is those on the margins that are the first to come loose. Leftist labor organizations, which have been at odds ideologically and tactically but came together in the anti-Erap protests, have found a new common cause in the call for an increase in the minimum wage. Crying betrayal, the workers' groups are heaping all the blame on the President and her advisers, who they say have been held as willing hostages to the interests of employers and business.

If the demand for a legislated or mandated wage increase is not met, the workers promise to unleash a force equal to, if not greater than, the ragged army that marched on Malacañang last May 1. Already reeling from the economic shocks caused at least in part by the instability in Mindanao, can the government, and more importantly, the economy, withstand a repeat of that bloody encounter on the very gates of political power?

No one wants to speculate on an answer at this point, but it also seems clear that to cave in now to threats of violent protests would leave the government wide open to similar moves in the future. And what would that do to the country's image of stability in the meantime?

* * *

AS if the workers' agitation were not enough to give her headaches, President Macapagal must also contend with divisions within the center, among her allies in both the House and the Senate.

Actually, if you take a look at the headlines, you'd think the biggest challenge confronting the country these days is not crime and violence, or an unraveling economy, but who will end up as Senate president and speaker of the House.

Of course, the fate of the administration's programs depends on favorable legislation. Certainly an obstructionist legislature could do much to slow the pace of reform or even meaningful action. But on the balance, considering everything that's at stake, this is really nothing more than a political tempest whipped up by warring egos and party entitlements.

One wants to grab those squabbling senators and congresspeople by the shoulders and shake them till they come to their senses. There are lessons a-plenty to be learned from the anti-Erap protests and the People Power II phenomenon. And one of the more obvious ones is that people need to overlook their minor differences if they are to come together and move against a common enemy and for a cause bigger than all of them put together.

* * *

FROM THE MARGINS, to the center, loyalties and ideals are being tested.

Competing stakeholders within the "People Power" coalition began bumping heads long before this. The Catholic hierarchy, exemplified by Jaime Cardinal Sin, asserted its influence early on. First was with the "Live Show" controversy which ended with the Church being able to shape the composition of the censors' board. Most recently, it has shown its smothering influence on public debate on social issues. Few people doubted that it was with the Church and the cardinal in mind that the President gave a firm "thumbs down" to a divorce law, this even before any bill could be filed. Let's see how Sen. Rodolfo Biazon's mettle as a fighter will be tested on this one.

Even the NGO community, once thought of as a homogenous gathering of bleeding hearts and do-gooders, is being riven by cracks caused by the anti-Erap protests and the breast-beating brought on by the march on Malacañang. Who has the "right" vision and approach to solving the entrenched issues of poverty? And have former NGO figures "betrayed" the cause by joining the government?

How the divisions of these troublesome times are settled may well determine how long this government lasts.

* * *

THIS newspaper has a bit part in the new mural to be unveiled tomorrow morning at the Shrine of Our Lady Queen of Peace, more popularly known as the Edsa Shrine.

Commemorating and celebrating "People Power II," the mural begins with *juetengate* and this is where the INQUIRER makes its appearance, with a front-page headline on Chavit Singson's explosive revelations.

Commissioned by Msgr. Soc Villegas, rector of the Edsa Shrine, the mural is the creation of Angono-based painter/sculptor Nemi R. Miranda Jr., who prefers to be called "Nemiranda." Miranda may be said to have a "franchise" on "people power," having produced a series of paintings on the first "People Power" revolt, earning the title of "Edsa Revolution Artist." (Nemiranda's Edsa paintings will also be on exhibit at the shrine's Serviam Hall tomorrow.) The mural should "cement" his hold on the title, an artful representation in bronzed concrete of those tumultuous events that unfolded last November and climaxed with the swearing-in of President Macapagal in January. Yes, it ends with that controversial inauguration, and no, the putative "People Power III," what some folks have come to call "Edsa-puwera," is not represented at all.

The mural can be found on the shrine's front wall, at the corner of Edsa and Ortigas, just behind the marker designating the Edsa Shrine as "holy ground."

Jaime Cardinal Sin leads the ceremonies, with three former and current heads of state—Cory Aquino, Fidel Ramos and GMA—in attendance.

Perhaps the occasion comes just at the right time, what with the tenuous coalition behind "Edsa Dos" threatening to fall apart. Will the mural be enough to rekindle the spirit that led to the downfall of a corrupt leader? Or will it serve as an epitaph to that fleeting moment of glory?

Tempest in a textbook

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

IN THE PAST week or so, South Korea was in the news for badgering Japan to revise its history textbooks. Last week it froze all bilateral military exchanges and canceled a top defense official's planned visit to Tokyo. South Korea also revoked permission for two Japanese Navy drill ships carrying graduating naval cadets to make a port call.

Korea's culture and tourism minister ordered a freeze on the entry of Japanese cultural products, putting on hold Japanese pop music, TV programs, films and animation. The defense ministry issued a statement saying that Korean and Japanese exchanges "have to proceed on the basis of a correct understanding of history and mutual trust with the support of the people of the two countries."

The Philippines could not do anything like this—or could it?—despite the fact that it shares with Korea, and with several Asian countries, an experience of Japanese brutality during World War II. What South Korea demands of Japan we ought to demand too. When Japan rebuffs Korea, it rebuffs the Philippines and the rest. But only Korea, because of its economic success, can look Japan in the eye.

Last week Japan formally rejected South Korea's demand to revise eight middle-school history textbooks that South Korea believes whitewash Japan's evil deeds during World War II. South Koreans are enraged that these textbooks do not mention that tens of thousands of Korean and other Asian women were forced to serve Japanese soldiers as sex slaves.

Japan simply refuses to own up in the textbooks, leaving in the dark its own young generation about the evil it had wrought upon a big part of the world, particularly upon Asian women and even European women who were in Asia then. Now Korea is taking the lead in forcing Japan to its knees. But Japan, for all its modern-day reputation of being disciplined and zen-serene, is unreasonably hard, proud and unrepentant.

One of the things that moved me to tears during the Women's International War Crimes Tribunal held in Tokyo last December was seeing an old woman from China in her native costume hobble up the stage while a video clip showing her in the prime of her youth—but tortured black and blue—was being played on the huge screen. Here was a survivor, I thought, who lived to see the day when she could loudly cry "Justice!" at those who robbed her of the sweetness of youth.

One has to give credit to the foreign Christian missionaries in China at that time who documented the Rape of Nanking with their home movie instruments and later showed the world the horror that the Japanese invaders wrought on a conquered place and its hapless populace. Disemboweled bodies, gaping wounds, women in the throes of death. Why the innocents? That was always the question.

But that was only Nanking. Many more places in Asia and the Pacific bore the brunt of Japanese brutality. But the worst of all was the systematic practice of sexual slavery that saw many Korean and Chinese women being shipped off to war zones and across national borders in order for their bodies to be used in between battles by Japanese soldiers.

In Tokyo we listened to a woman recall how she was simply torn away from her village and brought to a place far and away, the language of which she did not know. Being shipped to far places may not have been the case with the Filipino sex slaves but they suffered just as much.

Last December the tribunal declared Emperor Hirohito and several of his generals guilty but that was not the end of it. And while even before that judgment some kind of financial remuneration had been offered by Japan to the so-called comfort women in Asia (which was not found acceptable by all), this did not provide closure and healing.

Now, the other part of the story is that Japan continuously refuses to acknowledge that the brutalization of Asian women happened. Proof of this is its refusal to enter into history books and textbooks its enormous sin against humanity and against women in particular. Korea is enraged.

Korea should get much credit for doggedly demanding that Japan make amends not by waving the yen but by directly apologizing. The Korean comfort women have consistently refused any financial offer and the Korean government has supported this stance.

At the tribunal last December, Korea displayed its hard-line stance, often overdoing things and causing annoyance on the part of the other delegates. The Koreans had the biggest delegation and hogged the limelight whenever they found a way. But the Philippine delegation could not be outdone in thoroughness, preparedness and the manner of presentation by the prosecution.

Japanese women's groups should be credited for pushing for that tribunal and calling attention to the Japanese men's sexual misdeeds 50 years ago which were sanctioned, supported and encouraged by their government. (Ah, the Philippine delegation had documents to prove this.)

Sadly though there are also groups (that looked like racist hate groups) in Japan that make whitewashing their main concern. They held their own little rallies at the gates and distributed leaflets while the tribunal was holding its sessions. I got one of their photocopied leaflets with handwritten messages and translations in Chinese. I have kept this in my files.

Here is what it says: "1. There were never military comfort girls. 2. Some traders concerned of prostitution business collected prostitute girls. 3. Most of traders were Korean, Chinese and few Japanese. 4. Japanese Government and Military never collected prostitute girls, because of official prohibition notification. 5. There is international communist behind today's sponsorship's back. 6. They hate not only old good western heritage, but also Japanese heritage."

Gusto kong manapok, but I was in a foreign country and a journalist. It takes something really extreme to make me angry.

The peddlers of these lies were young Japanese. What a pity.

Lestat lives

YOUNGBLOOD

Carla Myriel Dumo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I LOVE vampires. Yes, vampires: the white-skinned beings with glass-like nails and eyes that reflect the color of the light who are known to be the most erotic and passionate beings to walk the planet. But it is not only their physical features that attract me to them but also the cloud of mystery that hangs over them as well as the seemingly colorful and exciting lives they live.

Night crawlers, they are. But do you know that people look most beautiful and enchanting at night? That's why vampires are always so stunning when they go out.

Of course, among all the vampires that walked this earth or lived in anyone's imagination, Lestat de Lioncourt was the one I fell in love with. I can almost hear you all screaming: "Are you crazy?" Well maybe, but the reason is that he possesses so many human qualities.

Lestat is immortal. When he wakes up in the morning, he does not have to worry about wrinkles or that his stunning beauty might fade. His vanity, I believe, comes from the fact that he knows that he's going to be beautiful forever.

We mortals want immortal blood to run through our veins. And of course, with the wonders of science and medicine, we're slowly getting there. Look, aren't people living much longer than before? There has been an increase in the senior group in the past five years. And more often than not, we want the immortal blood to run through our faces, saying that anything else can grow old provided it is not our physical self.

See the first little parallel? But then while Lestat is immortal and possesses eternal beauty, he is already dead.

In some ways, we're just like him. We improve our looks with so many beauty products, letting vanity take over and flood our brains. We try to preserve our physical essence and yet by doing so, we slowly kill our insides. Sadly, some people live too much in the past and the present to even bother about the near future which basically begins at sunrise. We're so engrossed with everything happening right now and forget our future despite the longer time given to us. Many of us are only breathing and not truly living.

I mentioned earlier that vampires are the most erotic and passionate creatures to roam the earth. That is true. Even if you are not a vampire fan, you would have noticed that in every single movie about vampires, there is always a scene where the vampire kisses a girl. While doing so, he inches his way to her neck and takes a bite. And then guess what? Even as life is being drawn out of her, the expression on her face does not show pain. Lestat describes it as "a feeling of flying and soaring past the hills and above the trees."

Imagine that. Even at the brink of death, pleasure flies by your side.

Lestat's first love was Gabrielle, his mother. She was the first to receive the Dark Gift from him. If you were to read "The Vampire Lestat," you would find out that he gave her the Gift because he wanted to save her from great suffering due to her sickness. Ironically, because Lestat wanted to save her, he brought her straight to death's gate. Lestat was burned with his love for love until the very end.

Just like we all are. The ardor for romance and love burns the brightest flame in our souls and beings. All of us struggle with the ones we love and their hopeful approval of us. Age, time, death or life do not change that. We are all still weak in the knees with a flock of butterflies flying around our stomachs. Until now, we are pushed to search for love and are driven insane by its absence.

If I were to say the word vampire, the first words you would associate with it would be fiend, devil and evil. But in truth, if you only knew, vampires are not bad by choice; they are victims of evolution. Lestat calls himself the new age evil when confronted by a posse of vampires led by Armand. He explains: "In ancient days there were martyrs who quenched the flames that sought to burn them, mystics who rose into the air when they heard the voice of God, but as the world changes, so changed the saints. What are they now but nuns and priests? They build hospitals and orphanages, but they do not call down the angels to rout armies or tame the savage beast...and so it is with evil, obviously. It changes form. How many men in this age believe in the crosses that frighten [Satan's] followers? A few more murders in a wilderness of murders? How can this be of interest to God or the Devil or to man?"

I can't help but wonder if Lestat was referring to our age, our century. Some mortals, like Lestat, are the new age evil. If Lestat could walk and live among sinless beings and enter sacred churches, the new age mortal demons can do the same. The evolution of crimes and slaughter were startling enough to sweep Lestat off his feet. You only have to look at our local newspapers to read about the new age evil that is plaguing our era: heinous crimes, bombings and kidnappings—the list goes on and on. Take a peek at CNN nowadays and the horror gets even worse: kids shooting their classmates, religious wars that seem to never end.

Lestat waged war against his own kind: true evil against true evil with both sides proclaiming that they were the right kind of wrong. What we have isn't very far from that. There is no boundary for hatred any longer. Anyone and everyone can be an enemy. Family feuds, religious groups against a different sect, ethnic cleansing. These are worse than any crime or outrage a vampire can ever commit. These are enough to bring any heartfelt, passionate mortal—or immortal—to tears.

Sometimes people make the world too much of a playground and act like they were immortal and they could do anything they want to anyone and get away with it. They forget that they are not characters in an Anne Rice novel.

There is a Lestat that lives in all of us. Not polluting but ironically enough, purifying our thoughts and making us all think about and realize the horrors of the world we live in.

Carla Myriel Dumo, 15, is in Grade 11 at Brent International School, Baguio and a staff member of The Brentonian.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

Contributors to Youngblood who haven't received their checks are requested to inquire with the PDI cashier on Friday.

THEY SAID

Sydney massacre

"Any murder is a tragedy, but in this case three members of a family are dead. I consider it an outrage."

—Supt. Mick Plotecki on the murder of the Gonzales family in Sydney, Australia

Common endeavor

"Our 500 policemen can hardly cope with their job of securing the 85,000 households and more than 5,000 business establishments in the city. Our peace efforts will only bear fruit when all sectors in the community are helping each other."

—Gen. Santos Mayor Pedro Acharon

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Folly

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

"WE welcome the efforts of the Commission on Human Rights to protect the rights of the people," says Hernando Perez. "But the CHR should go there (presumably to Basilan) to protect the rights of the civilians."

What a stupid thing to say for a justice secretary. The task of protecting the rights of the citizens belongs to the government—and not quite incidentally to the Philippine National Police and Armed Forces of the Philippines, who are expressly tasked to protect their lives, dignity and property as well—not the CHR. Prosecuting criminals and observing human rights are not contradictory activities, they are complementary ones, except in the eyes of unenlightened and grandstanding justice secretaries. The CHR does not thwart the ends of justice by insisting on due process, it promotes it. The CHR does not harm the interests of civilians by protesting the infringement of the human rights of suspects, it upholds them.

At the very least, suspects **are** civilians too, until proven to be combatants. At the very most, the civilians **are** being protected by what the CHR is doing, by sparing them the woe of being dragged away screaming for being at the wrong place at the wrong time.

The only way criminals can be caught and punished is by due process and strict observance of human rights. Confessions extracted from torture—and inflicting humiliation and indignity should qualify as that; look at the picture in the INQUIRER of Osin Abducarim and Abdulgani Abbas being herded like cattle to camp and see if they have not been tortured in this way—are of no value to anyone, other than military and civilian officers who want promotions. They are certainly of no value to society, who may not breathe easy that the scourge before them has been expunged.

Human rights assure that the guilty, and only the guilty, are punished, and the innocent, and only the innocent, freed. The lack of human rights assures that both the guilty and innocent perish so that justice secretaries and the presidents they serve look good. Or like they are doing something other than scratching their heads, or whatever part of their anatomy itches from befuddlement.

My friend Bobi Tiglao says, "We have not received any specific complaints about human rights violations or wrongful arrests." Well, people who are gagged cannot make noises, other than gargling sounds, and the gagging is not always metaphorical. But the suspects in fact have been complaining bitterly, not least of them Abducarim, who is the president of the Basilan Electric Cooperative, and Abbas, who is barangay chair of Tabuk, Isabela.

Quite apart from that, Bobi's statement reminds me of the ones the Malaysian foreign office routinely issued during the mid-1990s each time they rounded up Pinoys in Kuala Lumpur and beat them up. At one point, they did that to more than a thousand Pinoys. The practice was to round them up periodically in the plaza where they normally congregated, jail them and release them one by one after they had proven themselves legal aliens. The rest were kept in jail. So what was the problem? the Malaysian ministry used to ask, astounded by the violent protests from the Philippine government. If the Pinoys were innocent, he said, they could always count on being freed.

The problem, of course, is that it is the fascist way. Arrest first, ask questions later. Paeng Mariano has good reason to say it's martial law in Basilan. There, people are presumed guilty until proven innocent.

Completely serendipitously, I just watched a fascinating movie last Sunday on HBO entitled "Vendetta," which dealt with this same issue. I hope they show the movie again. The story tells of the murder of a police superintendent by a group believed to be the Mafia at the turn of the 20th century in New Orleans. Authorities promptly cracked down on the burgeoning Italian community, arresting suspects right and left. The governor and attorney general, determined to make a statement against the Mafia ("Ma-fi-ya," they pronounce it), produce perjured testimony against the suspects. But their case is so full of holes the jury finds all the defendants not guilty. The judge however refuses to let them out of jail. And undaunted by the verdict, the attorney general, with the governor's blessings, go on to lead a lynch mob, which draws in most of the townspeople They gun down and hang the prisoners.

That was the biggest lynching in American history, although it has pretty much become a forgotten chapter. President Theodore Roosevelt hailed the lynching as quite the right thing to do.

At the very least, the monumental injustice of it cries out to the heavens. All of us want an end to the Abu Sayyaf at this dawn of the 21st century, in the same way that most of the Americans in New Orleans wanted an end to the Mafia at the dawn of the 20th century. Not all of us want that done by sacrificing the innocent to make a "powerful statement" to the enemy. Not all of us want to rush to judgment and string up people who would otherwise "escape justice." It is not only wrong, it also, as America subsequently saw, does not stop the thing it starts out to do.

That is the other side of this folly. The way to stop the Abu Sayyaf is to alienate it from the Muslim population, not to make the Muslim population identify with it. The way to stop the Abu Sayyaf is to make the Muslim population hate it, not see its members as their saviors or protectors or leaders. You will not alienate them from or make them an object of spite of the Muslim community by making the Muslim community pay for their sins. Filipinos during the Japanese Occupation never learned to hate the guerrillas because the Japanese shot 10 civilians for every Japanese soldier killed. The Filipinos merely got to hate the Japanese more. That is what we'll do by dragging in every Tom, Dick and Harry, or every Abdul, Omar and Mohammad, out of their home to answer for the crimes of the Abu Sayyaf. Which is what ignoring due process and human rights amounts to. We will only fuel the fires of hate between Christians and Muslims, the very culture that breeds obscenities like the kidnapping Abu Sayyaf and the headhunting vigilantes and fanatical cults.

Being resolute does not mean being wanton. Being determined does not mean being indiscriminate. Doing something doesn't mean screwing things up.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Monosyllabic surnames

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

WHENEVER I go on an overseas trip, I have to bring a letter from the Bureau of Immigration certifying that I am not Michael Tan. Yes, you read it right. The letter certifies that I am not the Michael Tan named in a hold departure order. Apparently, that Michael Tan has several estafa cases pending, all the way back to 1993.

It's not just a matter of many Tans in the Philippines but several Michael Tans. When I was in high school, there were three of us in the same school (well, two Michaels and one Miguel) and I've met many more since then, including one of Lucio Tan's sons, who was featured in an INQUIRER article last week that appeared right next to my column and got people wondering if it was me. Nope, that Michael's better-looking (and wealthier).

The number of Tans in the Metro Manila phone directory take up 10 pages while the Lims (which is my mother's surname) take up 8 pages. I'm not even counting the other variations on these surnames: Tan is spelled Chen if you are from a Mandarin-speaking area and Chan if you're Cantonese, while Lim is also often spelled Lin. So numerous are the Tans and Lims that there's a Chinese expression suggesting that the Tans and Lims together make up half of humanity.

There are many other monosyllabic surnames which, short as they are, can get Filipinos quite emotional, even agitated. I don't know if the rule still holds, but as recently as two years ago, people with monosyllabic surnames like Tan and Lim faced delays when they applied for a Filipino passport, having to prove that they were "real" Filipinos.

Last year, at the height of the crisis around Erap, former Tourism Secretary Nars Lim had to devote one of her columns to "the other Tans and Lims" because of the growing sentiment against Erap's Chinoy (Chinese-Filipino) friends. Consider my column today as a follow-up to Nars', mainly a brief retrospection on the origins of today's Chinoy.

The contemporary Chinoy are mainly descended from migrants who streamed into the Philippines starting in the middle of the 19th century and into the middle of the 20th century. Before that there were already Chinese migrants, but many of these earlier waves were completely assimilated into Philippine society (Jose Rizal, for example, was a fifth generation Chinese *mestizo*).

The new wave of migrants began coming into the Philippines after the Spaniards opened up the islands to world trade. The *chino* flourished as middlemen for this new trading network, establishing themselves at all levels, from the *tienda de sari-sari*—the original 24-hours-a-day and 7-days-a-week convenience store—to the chic bazaars of Escolta. Edgar Wickberg's "The Chinese in Philippine Life, 1850-1898" (originally published in 1965 and reprinted last year by the Ateneo de Manila University Press), gives fascinating details about the lives of these early Chinese migrants and their trading activities. From the book, I learned that 19th century Chinese bazaars sold Viennese furniture, French musical instruments, cooking stoves, cabinets, ornaments for carriages, dinnerware, lamps, Chinese silks, European cottons, galvanized iron.

Most of these migrants were from four counties in the southern Chinese province of Fukien. Wickberg cites a 19th century census showing that the most common surnames were Tan, Uy, Sy, Lim, Chua, Ong, Dy, Go, Co, Yu, Yap and Que, in that order. Tan alone accounted for over 10 percent of the names.

The 19th century Chinese migrants were well-organized into *gremios* (guilds) as well as mutual help organizations. Manila's Chinese Cemetery and Chinese General Hospital, which still exist today, were established during that period, ironically because the Chinese could not use the other cemeteries (which were open only to Catholics) and hospitals. Anti-Chinese sentiment drove the Chinese to a defensive cultural exclusivity, resulting in the establishment of their own schools, newspapers and places of worship.

The Chinese-Filipino community is actually quite small, comprising less than 2 percent of the total population. Many have become completely assimilated into mainstream Filipino society. Like earlier waves of Chinese migrants, some families modified the monosyllabic surnames, adopting Spanish-Filipino surnames (e.g., Roxas-Chua) or modifying the Chinese surnames (e.g., Gokongwei, Limchayseng, Yuchengco).

The Chinoy are no longer limited to business. My father was a journalist and my mother a teacher, and both eventually became business people and were always warning my sister and me that journalism and teaching were professions where you'd starve. You can see I didn't exactly listen to their advice and although my parents occasionally drop remarks about how "idealistic" I am to continue teaching and writing for a newspaper, I know that deep down, they're actually quite proud of the work I'm doing. *Chinoy, chinay kasi.*

LETTERS

Moral bigotry worse than violence

THE SAVAGERY of your July 16 editorial, which ironically tackled the moral dimension of the contest for the Senate presidency, was totally unexpected. In the portions that did not attack me, there was only left-handed compliment.

First, you raised the issue of "moral flexibility" which, read in its proper context, meant swinging from one side to another, whichever suits me and my political interest. My public record would disprove this.

The Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino was my first political party. It still is. I stuck with the party through its good and tough times—and its lowest moments. And I never strayed from its ideals.

I have never wavered from my stand on crucial national issues. The core issues I developed for my legislative agenda in the 8th Congress remain the same, only broader in scope now and being pursued with more passion.

As Senate president, I mediated and conciliated divergent views and contending opinions to enact good legislation. Legislation is the art of the possible, not some fixed moral compass preached only by the moral and political bigots. Moral bigotry is a crime worse than violence.

During my term as Senate president from 1993 to 1995, over 100 laws, most of them laws about investment-generation and rebuilding the economy, had been passed. The laws gave direction to a drifting government.

Even as an opposition leader, I always reached out to the other side. For me, being with the opposition does not mean working as a wrecking crew. It is not unnatural for an opposition leader to help build institutions and work for the good of the nation.

Second, you raised my association with former President Estrada. There is nothing to be ashamed of in my stint at the Department of Agriculture. The sector grew by 6.7 percent in 1999 and 3.49 percent in the year 2000, budgetary limitations and all. Good men, good programs and an able leadership did these things. Find something immoral about this.

The Senate presidency is about leadership and competence, not an imagined moral mandate. Senators convey moral values and morality through hard work, passing landmark laws, a work ethic that leaves little time for armchair moralizing. Lifting the marginal sectors via enabling legislation dominated my Senate work from 1987 to 1998—the moral equivalent of war against illiteracy, malnutrition, joblessness and the dying agriculture sector.

If your newspaper wants to help the Senate, it should stop prejudging the senators—just as you did with Senators Ramon Revilla and Robert Jaworski. The Senate was, and still is, an institution of good men with good intentions. Senators Revilla and Jaworski have lived up to this tradition.

The senators—and this is the urgent agenda—need to get their act together to work for the common good, not to fight along partisan lines. Even in the selection of our leader, partisan lines should be the last consideration.—**SEN. EDGARDO J. ANGARA**

NO, there's nothing immoral with having good years in agriculture. But the senator forgot to mention what seems to be the major factor that contributed to the impressive growth: good weather. The editorial referred to his work as executive secretary, transition negotiator and finally as chief Puwersa ng Masa candidate, during which time the champion of education reform in the Senate taught, through his actions, that loyalty is the primary virtue—thus legitimizing "weather-weather" politics.

If Senators Ramon Revilla and Robert Jaworski are good examples of the "good men with good intentions" who have upheld the fine tradition of the Senate, our standards of public service must have dipped precipitously since the time of Recto and Tañada.—**Ed.**

Uprising of the poor may be repeated

THE MOST heartening economic news last week to me, which coincided with the celebration of the French Revolution, was Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas' endorsement of Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.'s 747 development plan.

I believe the plan will avert an uprising of the poor more violent than the Labor Day demonstration at Malacañang, which should remind us of the siege of Bastille. It's also an effective answer to a recent warning that the gains of People Power II "are close to being squandered."

There are now 4.5 million squatters in Metro Manila. Like the poor of Paris who didn't need much prodding to start the French Revolution, our urban poor could easily be ignited by well-funded demagogues.

The biggest cause of division in France then was economic disparity. There was animosity between the poor, especially those coming to the cities hoping to improve their lives, and the urban rich. But the "rich" in the minds of the poor included those who were privileged both by birth or those who got drunk with their own success, including both bourgeois and aristocrats. Until finally, prolonged perpetuation of privilege and irrational institutional anachronism between the politically powerful "rich" and the poor became a powder keg that exploded on July 14, 1789 heard around the world.

Make no mistake about it, the chaos after the fall of Bastille could be repeated here.

When De Venecia explained his plan, I imagined the French Revolution was in his mind. I became an instant convert. I wrote him to say that for the plan to be really effective, however, it needs IT-based strategy and financing framework never tried before. The truth is, if there's a glaring proof of the wrong policies and plans that have dominated our economic thinking, it's the sad state of the Philippine National Railways and other vital infrastructure without which no national development is possible.

Although the solutions are debatable, the warning of the so-called Yellow Paper II is correctly premised. The country's difficult problems arise out of complementary causes: poor revenue collection, misapplication of funds and mounting budget deficit. Graft and corruption, election irregularities and poverty itself are effects of these causes. Hence, the effects cannot be addressed without first consistently attacking the causes.

But more important than De Venecia's plan and the right strategies to implement it is the political will of our national leaders. Unfortunately, the lack of political will shows when much time is wasted on choosing the Senate president instead of starting the work on reforms. Self-sacrifice like that manifested by Dr. Jose P. Laurel and Don Claro M. Recto in giving way to Ramon Magsaysay seems to be unheard of among our senators today.—**FRANK WENCESLAO, 375 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City**

Another sad tale from a veteran's widow

I WANT to bring to the attention of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) the distressing plight of a widow from Hawaii, who has fallen victim to the bureaucratic inefficiency of that office.

Maria T. Paras has a pending application for old-age pension as the surviving spouse of Jose Paras, a retired Philippine Scout veteran of World War II, who passed away on Nov. 29, 1988, in Honolulu. Unaware of the benefits awaiting her as surviving spouse, she submitted her application only on July 30, 1998, together with a copy of her marriage contract and other required documents.

After one and a half years of waiting and no word from the PVAO, Paras sought the help of Hawaii Rep. Patsy T. Mink who wrote the PVAO in January 2000 to inquire about the status of the claim. After two more follow-up letters, the PVAO finally responded in April 2000 requesting copy of Ms Paras' marriage certificate. Ms Mink replied that a copy had been previously sent but another copy was being sent to expedite processing of the claim. The congresswoman sent two more inquiries in July and September 2000, asking about the status of the claim. The PVAO never responded.

I met Ms Paras during my trip to Honolulu in November 2000, and being a family friend, she asked me to inquire from the PVAO about her claim. Back in Manila, the PVAO explained that it was busy clearing the records of irregularities in the list of pensioners that the claim of Ms Paras must have been overlooked during the reorganization process. I was assured that if I could submit the marriage certificate of Ms Paras or any document like ownership of real estate property with both their names appearing as husband and wife, that much would suffice to facilitate the processing of her claim.

In March 2001, I submitted to the PVAO certified copies of the marriage certificate including a certified copy of a land title which the couple bought when the husband was still living. The property was duly registered with the Honolulu register of deeds. Both documents were authenticated by the Philippine Consul in Honolulu. I also stressed to the PVAO that it had obviously overlooked the fact that the widow's name also appears in her husband's death certificate that was issued by the Department of Health of Hawaii. The certificate acknowledges her as the surviving spouse. The lady at the PVAO assured me that everything was now in order, a bit of news that was happily received by Ms Paras.

That assurance was for nothing. Last week, I received a frantic call from a very disappointed Ms Paras. She said the PVAO had written Ms Mink to ask Ms Paras to submit her marriage certificate!

Frankly, I am mortified by what Ms Mink must be thinking about the lousy way the PVAO is running its affairs. There seems to be a complete breakdown of systems in the PVAO. I cannot, for the life of me, continue embarrassing myself to explain to Ms Paras and Ms Mink that the PVAO tells me there was another reshuffling of staff to improve the system for better efficiency, and unfortunately some documents may have been misplaced in the process.

I am appalled to realize how exasperating this recurring experience must have been for the other PVAO claimants. I can only watch in dismay these poor old folk, who come mostly from the province, some hardly walking, as they wait for their turn to inquire about their claims. The unsettling questions of the PVAO bear down on them that they seem at a loss as what to do next. You don't want to see the pitiful sight.

I write openly to call the PVAO authorities because I feel that this is the only way to get their attention, and because Ms Paras, like the rest of the claimants, is too old to be given the runaround. Please be more receptive and compassionate to the veterans and their widows who have very little in life, and with very little time left to live. Ms Paras is sickly and, after waiting for three years, now she is back to square one. Shall I tell her to wait a few more years for her claim to be approved, that is, if she's lucky to be still alive then?—**CESAR M. DE LOS REYES, 45 Fordham St., White Plains, Quezon City**

Tithing's long history

THE CATHOLIC Church's plan to impose tithes on the faithful in lieu of fees, though ill-timed, is nevertheless, a welcome development. After all, tithes have always been part of ecclesiastical tradition, the very first of which was paid by Abraham to the priest Melchisedek (Gen. 14:20). Later, tithes were prescribed in the Mosaic Law, and the custom continued into New Testament times.

The prophet Malachias reminded the faithful of his time that they robbed God when they withheld their tithes (Mal. 3:8-11), since a tenth part of their produce were consecrated to the Lord and used for religious purposes.

What happens if churchmen pay more attention to socio-political purposes instead of tending to their religious duties? They become dependent on "tithes" donated by crime lords masquerading as philanthropists.—**ERICK SAN JUAN, Suite 1402, 1st eBank Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City**

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Central bank props up peso to 53.70 to $

(From page A1)

Another trader said the BSP was forced to support the peso because it wanted to avoid raising interest rates.

"The BSP could not afford to raise interest rates nor let the peso drift with the upcoming Sona," said the trader.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura dismissed allegations that the autonomous BSP was acting at the behest of Malacañang.

"The market will cook up ways to get a reaction (from the BSP) and I will not fall into that trap," Buenaventura said.

The peso's volatility will remain as long as the global jitters arising from the possible loan default by Argentina continue and the local law and order problems persist, according to the BSP chief.

Nervous

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the peso's weakness was due to "nervous speculations" in the domestic financial markets.

"We are the ones doing this to the peso because there is no offshore pressure. It is us (causing the problem)," Camacho said.

Economist Romulo Neri, for his part, said the peso's weakness was partly due to the growing disappointment with how the Macapagal administration was handling economic and political problems.

"The government seems to be drifting, without any direction. I share the view of other economists that this government is in danger of losing its window of opportunity and that the high expectations it had set are not being met," said Neri, director general of the Congressional Budget and Planning Office.

"There are no bold moves but only posturing for 2004," he said.

The central bank's strong intervention came two days after it stayed away from the market.

"We will provide liquidity when necessary because we don't want to waste our bullets. It is not wise to target a particular exchange level. We will let the market do that," Buenaventura told reporters at noon yesterday.

Traders said the BSP sold about $15 million minutes before trading ended in the morning. When trading resumed in the early afternoon, the peso weakened anew to 54.335.

Fifteen minutes before trading closed, the BSP dumped as much as $60 million on the spot market, causing the peso to bounce back.

The BSP sold dollars through foreign lenders Deutsche Bank and Chase Manhattan Bank, according to the traders.

They said the market would continue to test the BSP today and see whether it would continue to intervene aggressively to prop up the peso.

At a breakfast forum in Greenhills, San Juan, Canlas, who also heads the National Economic Development Authority, said the BSP's intervention was unwarranted because the market was expected to correct itself.

He said dollar remittances from overseas Filipino workers would start pouring in around this time.

While the imports from the United States could further strengthen the dollar against the peso, the Philippine currency would not weaken because it was holding well against other major currencies like the yen, Canlas said.

He dismissed speculations that the peso would hit the P60:$1 mark.

Canlas said the market would correct itself in the next few weeks as fund managers were expected to adjust to the effects of the Argentine problem on their portfolio.

He said that by then, the peso would hover between P51 and P53 to the dollar.

"The investors (spooked by) the Abu Sayyaf problem have already gone," Canlas said. "This is already the impact of the Argentine problem and the peak in imports," he said.

Sticking to targets

Despite the weakening peso, the government is sticking to its key economic and fiscal targets.

"At this point in time we're still sticking to our GDP (gross domestic product) growth target of 3.3-3.8 percent," Canlas said. "But 3.3 percent is more like it given the current developments."

Canlas said leading indicators showed the government had attained the GDP growth of at least 2.8-3.0 percent in the three months to June.

After a 4-percent growth in 2000, the economy grew 2.5 percent in the first three months as exports were hit by a global slowdown.

The quarterly jobs rate showed an increase of 1.9 million agricultural, services and industry employment, while imports reversed a decline in April and May, Canlas said.

"Although the general perception is that all exports are down, that's not the case," Canlas said. "There are some export products of the country that are growing and many of them are agricultural products like coconut oil, copra meal, bananas as well as fishery products like tuna and prawns."

He said these sectors were benefiting from the weakening of the peso.

Canlas said personal consumption spending stayed at a healthy 3.5-percent pace.

He said the government remained on target to curb the budget deficit to P145 billion for the whole year. The deficit for the first half stood at P76 billion, or below the P80-billion ceiling for the period, he added.

"The weakening of the peso doesn't have too much of an effect on our deficit target," he said.

Canlas said that although tax collection had been "below target, some of the other government agencies have exceeded their revenue targets," with the treasury bureau raising P4 billion more than expected.

He said the Cabinet was putting together a "package of policies as well as programs and projects that will more or less provide some short-term solutions to some of the economic problems being faced by those who are being displaced by the current economic slowdown." *With a report from AFP*

Malacañang fence . . .

(From page A1)

he stressed that electric power would be turned on "only in emergencies."

And even when the power is on, the shock will not be lethal, according to Tiglao.

At present, the Malacañang compound is protected by wrought iron grills.

The new security feature was installed two months ago upon the recommendation of the Presidential Security Group. It was meant to avoid the shooting of anti-government demonstrators who might attempt to climb the Palace walls just like during the May 1 siege by pro-Estrada supporters.

Tiglao said that in police and military camps, it was standard operating procedure to shoot intruders who would climb the camp fence.

"We don't want to do that," he said.

"That was actually set up two months ago and was based on recommendation of security experts. The best . . . security (system) in such an important installation would be some kind of electrification that could be turned on only in emergencies. It's not always turned on," Tiglao said.

He said the power would be turned on only "if someone climbs the fence."

Tiglao said he was told that an electrified fence system was also in place in America's White House.

He said the system was much better than using barbed wires to block the roads leading to the Palace. He said people can get caught in the barbed wires and get hurt.

In case of a power outage, there is a standby power generator to ensure uninterrupted power supply.

"That had been in place two months ago, after May 1. The analysis of the PSG, which is valid, is that they are apprehensive that many people would get hurt (if the Palace was laid under siege)," Tiglao said.

Tiglao said he did not know how much the installation of the new security system cost, but he said it could not have been more than P5 million. He said only the power transformers entailed some costs.

The security-conscious Palace is also planning to put up rolling steel gates which, Tiglao says, are "more aesthetically acceptable" as barricades rather than the container vans that are at present being put at the main entrances of the Malacañang complex.

Muntinlupa . . .

(From page A1)

the country's most notorious criminals, thanks to the enthusiastic new warden of the New Bilibid Prisons (NBP).

The penitentiary in Muntinlupa City is being groomed as a destination for tourists and *balikbayans* interested in visiting "celebrity" inmates while roaming the park's spacious gardens.

Retired Col. Rocardo Macala, NBP director, said his priority is to change the image of the biggest prison in the country from a "punishment" center to a rehabilitation and recreation park.

Macala, who was appointed warden of the NBP in March, said the beautification of the NBP was on top of his list. He said the NBP has long been "open to the public" but few dared even to visit because of the misconception that the prison was a dangerous place housing "animals."

"It's different now. Many people come here, and they're not just those who have relatives in jail," Macala said.

Some are *balikbayans* who have no business at the NBP at all but who ask to see infamous inmates mostly out of curiosity, he said.

They are escorted by armed men to the maximum-security compound, a small community where the inmates are free to roam around.

They are then allowed to chat with and take pictures of the inmates for a few minutes, free of charge.

Among the most well-known prisoners at Bilibid are Zamboanga Rep. Romeo Jalosjos and Calauan Mayor Antonio Sanchez, both convicted for raping minors; Ambet Antonio, killer of basketball player Arnie Tuadles; and Hubert Webb, son of a former senator, who was convicted for rape with multiple murder.

Macala said there was a very minimal security risk for visitors because unlike in local jails, the inmates there were "being rehabilitated, not punished."

"This is a safe place, contrary to what most people think," Macala told the INQUIRER during a recent visit. "The prisoners are also humans, and they should be treated with some respect."

He said children from nearby upscale villages even come to the NBP to play with their remote-control boats at the Jamboree Lake, part of the complex's beautification project.

Inside the maximum security compound, which also houses the death row inmates, churches are being built and small stores have been set up by the prisoners themselves to make some money.

The NBP recently received P10 million from the Department of Justice to repair the water supply system so jail sanitation could be improved.

Investor sentiment: Boom to gloom

(From page A1)

ter this year.

This was in sharp contrast to the results of an MBC survey conducted before President Joseph Estrada's ouster in January. A total of 85.3 percent of the respondents felt that the economy would be weaker this year than in 2000.

MBC executive director Guillermo Luz said this month's survey showed the "deflated enthusiasm" of businessmen whose euphoria had subsided to a more somber outlook.

The MBC openly supported the opposition in January and joined protests that led to the removal of Estrada.

Luz said the government should not squander its opportunities.

The MBC official said the problem was in the implementation of reforms. He exhorted the Macapagal administration "walk the talk."

The respondents listed good governance and restoration of business confidence (with a credible and competent leader in Malacañang), enactment of the power reform bill, arraignment of Estrada and the results of the May 14 elections as the positive developments in the past six months.

But all respondents said that peace and order must be urgently addressed—the first time that there was unanimity on a single item.

The country has been troubled in recent months by a rash of kidnappings by the Abu Sayyaf bandits in Western Mindanao and by criminal gangs in Manila. Peace talks between communist rebels and the government have also come unstuck.

Despite these problems, former President Fidel V. Ramos yesterday assured American businessmen that the Philippines remained a good place to invest in.

"President Macapagal's message, which she asked me as her special representative, to bring to international business gatherings in nine different countries over the past six months is this: 'her government is seriously committed to make the Philippines a better place for you to do business,'" Ramos said.

Ramos, speaking at the general membership meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Inc. at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati, said that American businessmen had ample reasons to maintain their investments in the country, foremost of which is the talented manpower.

Besides peace and order, economic recovery, poverty and unemployment were on top of the respondents' list of major issues that the government should resolve within the next six months.

The dismal business outlook was also evident in businessmen's forecast of key economic indicators.

A total of 78.1 percent expect inflation to be higher this year than last year (inflation hit 6.7 percent in the first half this year from the average 4.4 percent in 2000) while 77.5 percent expect treasury bill rates to be either flat or higher than last year.

A total of 83.4 percent expect the peso to fall by 6.4 percent against the dollar from its end-2000 level of 50.01 (The peso has lost 8 percent of its value against the dollar so far this year).

The MBC survey showed that 65.6 percent of the respondents forecast lower exports and investments this year, a sharp turnaround from their rosy projections in January.

MBC members were less pessimistic on the performance of their businesses.

Some 48 percent expect revenues to be higher this year while 39.7 percent forecast net profits to improve from their 2000 levels.

However, the respondents expect a modest 6.9-percent growth in revenues and an 8.9-percent increase in profits this year, much lower than their original projections of 12.5 percent and 29.6 percent, respectively.

MBC said results of the survey showed that two-thirds of its members were keeping their workforce steady this year and that 40 percent would make additional investments this year. They noted that their capacity utilization had improved slightly.

Ailing boy's . . .

(From page A1)

Malabon. He's the 12th of the 13 children of Eric and Mila Tenorio.

His fascination with airplanes has been inspired by his idol, his eldest brother, Alarico, an aeronautics engineer with the US Air Force. Alarico, who's based in the States, dotes on his younger brother and regularly sends him toy planes and pictures of a variety of planes.

The Tenorio family also used to visit Moi's uncle, Col. Conrado Tauro, who's with the Philippine Air Force at Sangley Point.

Out of the blue one day, Moi expressed a wish to be brought to the international airport to have a closer look at the flying machines he dreams to take up sky high someday.

Last Tuesday, he got his wish. His sister, Dr. Bena Tenorio, arranged his tour of the airport with the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Public Affairs Office (PAO).

He was brought to the fourth floor of Naia Terminal 1 to get a front-seat view of planes landing and taking off. As luck would have it, the US Air Force C-5 Galaxy, America's largest aircraft, was at the terminal. The plane stopped at the Naia to refuel.

"I want to become a pilot someday. That's why I wanted to see the planes and facilities here," said the surprisingly cheerful Tenorio.

The visit to the airport wasn't Tenorio's first. He said he had gone to the airport a lot of times to see off relatives. But like all well-wishers of departing passengers, he had been fenced off from the restricted areas where he could have had a close-up view of planes on the tarmac.

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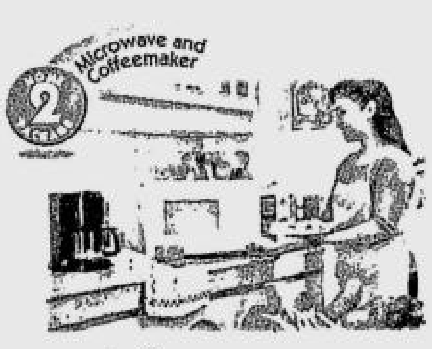

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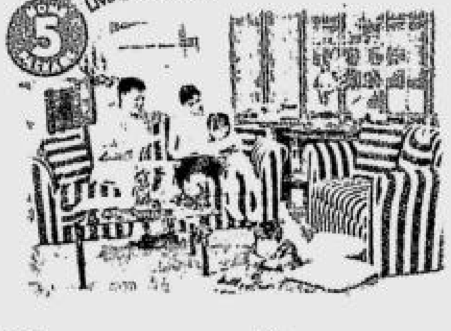

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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Wahid says he's close to clinching deal

WAHID helped by aides at the palace. AP

JAKARTA—Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid yesterday predicted that he would reach a compromise with his political foes to avoid impeachment. And, aides said the beleaguered president was unlikely to go ahead with his threat to declare emergency rule on Friday.

However, lawmakers involved in talks with Wahid earlier this week said a deal to save the president from ouster was far from certain.

"We are talking but there has been no commitment," said Akbar Tandjung, the parliamentary speaker and head of the Golkar party, the parliament's second largest bloc.

Wahid said he had met with three of his main rivals in an effort to strike a deal so that lawmakers would drop their campaign to oust him during impeachment hearings scheduled for Aug. 1.

"I am sure the situation is under control. There will be a compromise," Wahid was quoted as saying by state news agency Antara while visiting the resort island of Bali.

Presidential spokesperson Adhi Massardi said it was now unlikely that Wahid would declare a state of emergency because an accord appeared within reach, Antara reported.

Wahid last week said he would declare emergency rule at 6 p.m. on Friday unless his rivals agreed to drop their impeachment drive.

Police and military chiefs, as well as key Cabinet members, said they would not support an emergency, which would enable Wahid to shut down the assembly and call early elections.

Parliamentary leaders warned that if Wahid went ahead with his threat, they would launch immediately impeachment proceedings.

There were no immediate details of the possible agreement between Wahid and his rivals. But news reports said it included the president surrendering most of his executive powers to his main rival and likely successor Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

Wahid would mostly likely retain a ceremonial role as head of state.

Despite the president's optimism, a senior lawmaker in Megawati's Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle—which did not take part in the talks with Wahid—said a last minute deal was not possible.

"I can guarantee that Wahid will be removed from office," Sophan Sophian said in an interview.

In the past, Wahid has repeatedly offered to give Megawati more say in the running of the government in exchange for ordering her party to drop its campaign to impeach him. Megawati has so far turned him down.

Wahid, who was elected president 20 months ago after Indonesia's first democratic elections in more than four decades, is being impeached over allegations of incompetence.

He says the charges are politically motivated and are tantamount to a political coup against the administration.

Legislators initiated their impeach push against Wahid over his alleged involvement in two corruption scandals. However, they have since widened their campaign against him, accusing him of erratic governance and incompetence.

Police and state prosecutors have found no evidence of criminality against Wahid. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Spacewalk begins

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida—Two astronauts ventured out on a spacewalk and hooked up air tanks on the international space station's new entryway early yesterday following a brief yet critical computer breakdown. Space shuttle Atlantis astronauts Michael Gernhardt and James Reilly II got a late start on their second spacewalk of the mission because of the computer trouble. But within three-and-a-half hours, they had installed a set of tanks with help from Susan Helms and Jim Voss, the space station robot arm operators working from inside. It was reminiscent of the problem that plagued space station Alpha during the last shuttle visit: an abrupt failure of a command-and-control computer hard drive. This time, though, the trouble was not nearly as severe or widespread. To the astronauts' relief, flight controllers managed to reset the computer in time for Tuesday night's spacewalk to install high-pressure gas tanks on the new air lock, a passageway to the vacuum of space. The job of actually lifting the tanks required a massive robot arm—thus the need for the computer—while the hookups required a human touch. *AP*

G8 summit agenda

ROME—Debt, disease, poverty and war. Foreign ministers from the world's big industrial powers have a full agenda for their two-day meeting in Rome. The conference, which started yesterday, was a prelude to the Group of Eight summit later this week in the northern port city of Genoa, an event that is drawing tens of thousands of demonstrators. At Italy's urging, the foreign ministers will open their talks with a nod to the concerns of the street crusaders who've become a fixture at international summits over the past two years. The idea, Italian Foreign Minister Renato Ruggiero said, is to demonstrate "a common concern for the destiny of the world and the future of the less favored, to ensure they are not sidelined by the present globalization process." *AP*

Mideast violence

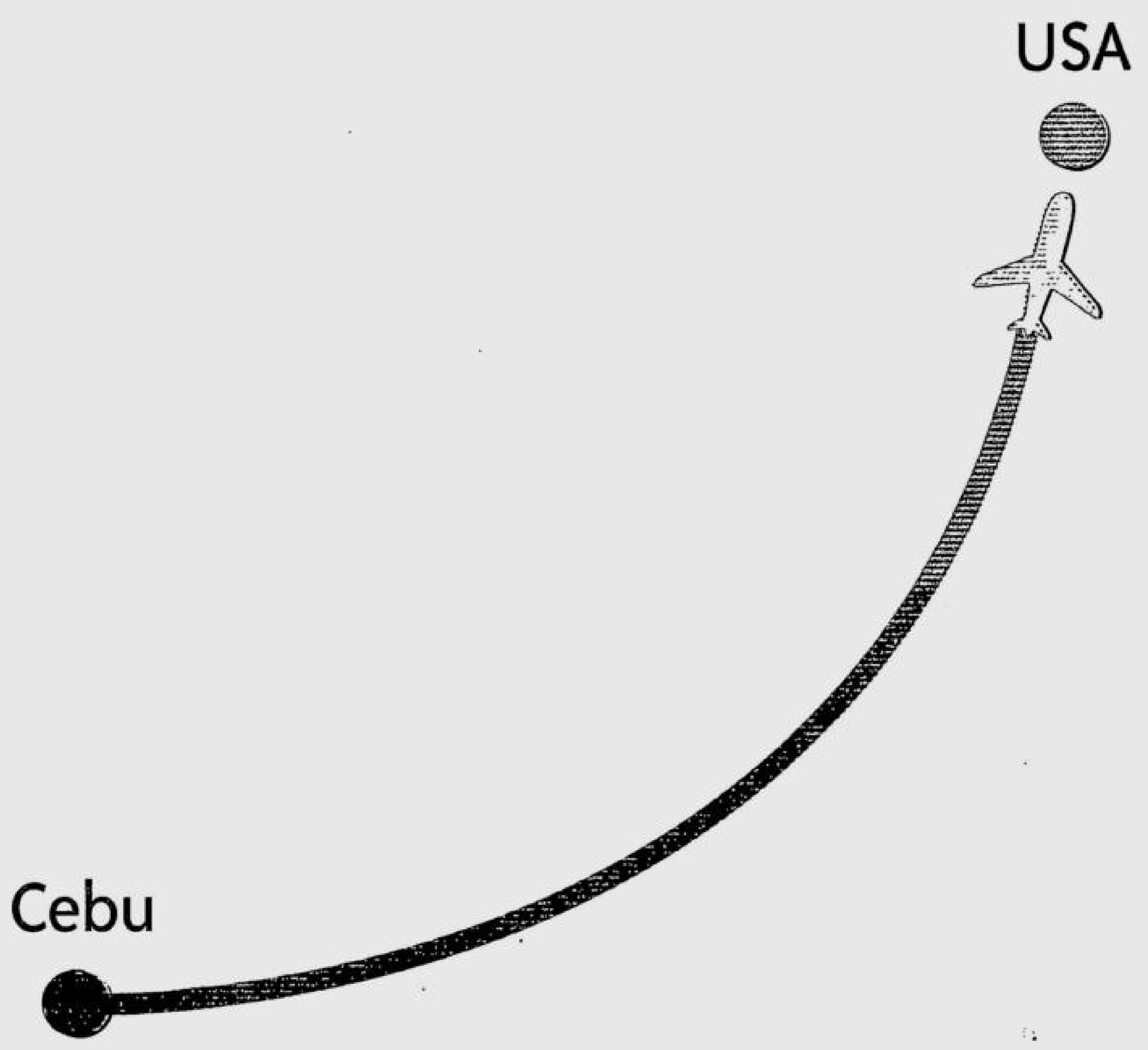
JERUSALEM—Two Israeli helicopters fired missiles at a cinderblock chicken coop Tuesday, killing four people, including two senior Palestinian activists from the militant group Hamas, the latest in a steady upward spiral of violence that has all but buried a US-sponsored ceasefire. Earlier, the Islamic Jihad, another militant group that sent a suicide bomber into Israel on Monday and killed two soldiers, defied an order by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to stop attacks inside Israel. The helicopters targeted the building in the West Bank town of Bethlehem, obliterating it and killing four people inside. Palestinian security sources said two of them, Omar Saadeh and Taha Aruj, were senior Hamas activists on Israel's wanted list. The attack was targeting the head of the military wing of Hamas in Bethlehem, according to the Israeli Army. Omar Saadeh held that position. *AP*

Desert ordeal

ALICE SPRINGS, Australia—A British tourist who managed to escape from a gunman suspected of murdering her boyfriend on a remote desert highway in central Australia says she feels lucky to be alive. In an interview published yesterday in Sydney's Daily Telegraph newspaper, Joanne Lees, 27, said she fears the gunman may strike again if he is not caught. "He really needs to be captured. I do not think he would hesitate to do it again," she said. Late Saturday, Lees and her boyfriend Peter Falconio, 28, stopped their camper van after another motorist signaled them. The man told Falconio he saw sparks coming from the van's exhaust. When Falconio went to investigate, Lees heard a gun shot. She never saw her boyfriend again, she told police. Detectives found Falconio's blood at the scene and believe he was killed. The gunman then dragged Lees from her vehicle, bound and gagged her and dumped her in the back of his pickup truck at Barrow Creek, about 300 km north of Alice Springs. Lees managed to scramble out of the truck and, under the cover of darkness, hid in desert scrub for several hours as the gunman searched for her with a flashlight and his dog. *AP*

Scorpion stunt

KUALA LUMPUR—A Malaysian woman sharing a cage with 2,000 scorpions wants 1,000 more creepy-crawly roommates to liven up her record-setting ordeal. "Malena told me to put more inside. She wants a challenge," Ali Khan Shamsuddin, the "guru" of self-styled scorpion stunt queen Nor Malena Hassan, said. Nor Malena was stung a second time on Tuesday, 16 days into a scheduled, month-long stunt. yesterday's Sun newspaper showed a picture of the 24-year-old, whom it described as unconscious in her 12-sq. m. glass enclosure after a scorpion stung her arm. "The doctor came to see her. She's okay now," Ali Khan said. The woman lives in the cage 24 hours a day in a museum in Kota Baru, state capital of northeastern Kelantan, except for 15-minute bathroom breaks. *Reuters*



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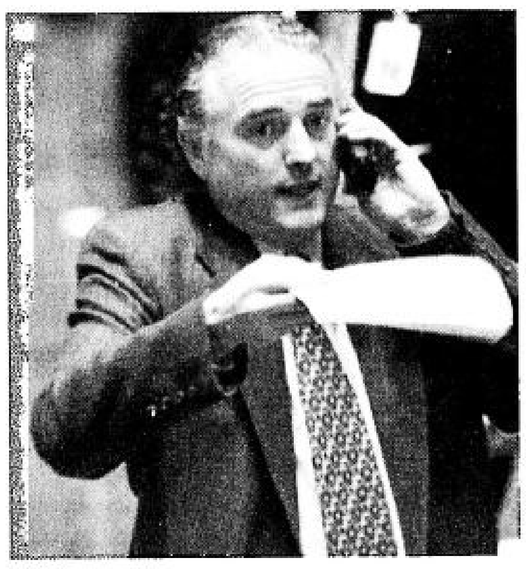
Uncertainty, hardship gripping Argentines



A FRANTIC trader works on the floor of the collapsing Buenos Aires stock market. AP

BUENOS AIRES—Schoolteacher Adriana Ortiz was forced to sell off the family car and take in an uncle and aunt when they lost their jobs in Argentina's worst economic crisis in years.

Her $1,100-a-month salary has shrunk under rising government taxes and her husband, Juan Carlos, has taken an extra job washing cars to help make ends meet.

"There's no end in sight," she said. "This is hopeless."

Three years of recession have exacted a heavy toll on millions of Argentines: personal bankruptcies are rising, thousands are lining up at embassies to seek jobs abroad and the middle class, once Latin America's largest, is endangered.

"The only way out of this economic crisis is through Ezeiza," said Maria Fernanda Gomes, a 23-year-old business major, referring to the Buenos Aires international airport where many are passing through in search of jobs in the United States and Europe.

The signs of a deepening recession are evident in Buenos Aires, where hundreds of storefronts sit empty, crime is on the rise, and so is homelessness.

Dozens of Argentines said in interviews that hopes of an economic turnaround had been jettisoned, thanks to a current debt crisis that has raised investor fears of a possible government default. Many are bracing for continued economic uncertainty and hardship.

"Both my brother and sister have left the country," said Gabriel Vicente, 42, a car factory worker. "And things are getting so grim, I'm considering it."

His brother, a 33-year-old government worker, is also disillusioned.

"How can you plan your life when your salary is cut 10 percent one month, and 13 percent the next?" said Pablo Vicente, bemoaning recent salary cuts as part of the government's efforts to scale back its spending.

President Fernando de la Rua and Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo last week announced draconian spending cuts highlighted by a 13-percent reduction of state worker salaries. The austerity plan, the seventh since De la Rua took office in December 1999, also will reduce government pensions.

Argentina's government is struggling to shrink a ballooning deficit that has triggered concern among international investors that Argentina would have difficulty meeting its debt obligations. Last week, the country's stock market tumbled 12 percent.

But many Argentines are angered and disillusioned by calls for more sacrifice to help the government pay its debts.

Other workers complain of not getting paid at all.

Employees at one private university recently showed up to collect their paychecks only to be turned away with news they would not be paid all. Some worry about government proposals to pay state workers in special coupons that can be used in lieu of money at restaurants and grocery stores instead of cash.

"We're always being asked to the shoulder the burden," said Ortiz, 32. "But I've already cut out everything I can—we're gotten rid of the car, my kids have moved to public schools. What more do they want?"

As the economic downturn nears its fourth year, some Argentines are beginning to wonder about the benefits they expected after free-market reforms brought the country years of economic growth. Those reforms were implemented in the 1990s, after the last crisis.

But economists say those advances have been corroded by corruption, years of government overspending and a dwindling competitiveness in the global marketplace that has pushed thousands of Argentines into joblessness.

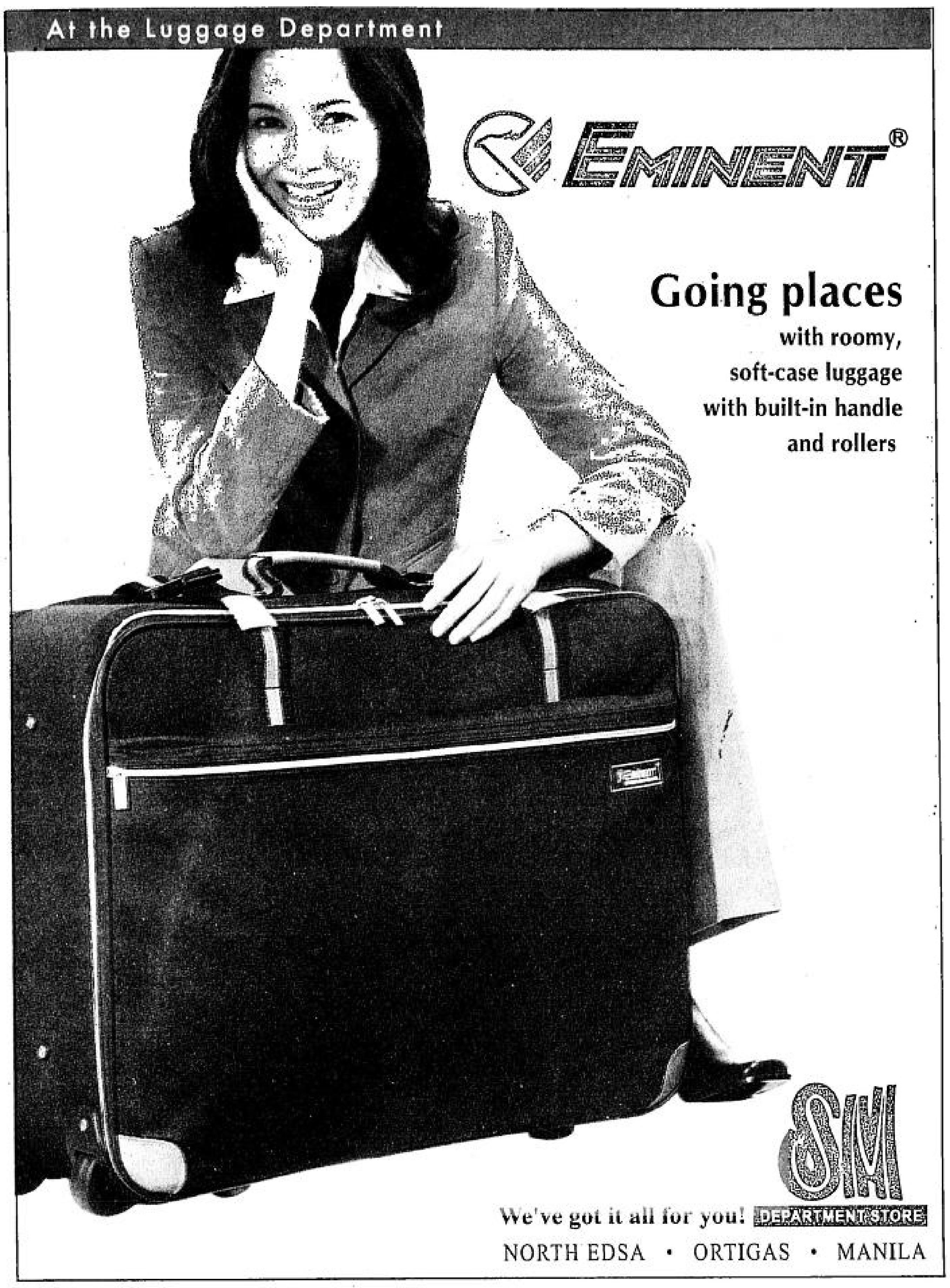
Unemployment is hovering around 16 percent and expected to rise.

In recent months, the closing of hundreds of businesses have meant benefits such as medical insurance have been reduced, stirring hundreds of street protests, many from disgruntled state workers who say they feel abandoned after the privatizations of the mid-1990s.

In a sign of rising social tensions, hundreds of unemployed workers blocked a highway outside Buenos Aires on Monday. More protests were expected this week, after powerful labor unions announced a national strike on Thursday.

Ortiz, a public schoolteacher, said she would be joining the strike.

"They think the country's problems will be solved by asking me to by cutting my salary, by cutting old people's pensions," she said. "On Thursday, I'm planning to let them know they are absolutely wrong." *AP*



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Mahathir tries to quell dissent in universities

KUALA LUMPUR—In a move to curb political dissent and stop grades from falling further in universities, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has said that students and teachers will be held to agreements that give the government more powers to expel them.

Mahathir, cited by The Sun newspaper yesterday, said the measure would be enforced at all public universities.

Mahathir said it was currently difficult to take action against lecturers and students because of complex disciplinary procedures and ambiguous employment terms, to be corrected in a new agreement under preparation.

"We cannot afford to have people who are not interested in education running around," Mahathir was quoted as saying Tuesday. "If they find that they are unable to participate in other activities and teaching becomes a burden to them . . . they are welcome to leave."

The university system has seen growing dissent against Mahathir's 20-year rule, particularly among the Malay Muslim ethnic majority attracted to the opposition coalition, spearheaded by an Islamic fundamentalist party, that accuses the government of corruption and autocracy.

The shift toward the fundamentalist Pan-Malaysia Islamic Party badly split Mahathir's traditional support among the Malay Muslims, who benefit from affirmative action policies that include a large quota of university places compared to students from the Chinese and Indian minorities.

Mahathir has accused many Malay students of being lazy and not studying hard despite their privileges and has accused some professors of fomenting an anti-government line. Existing laws already prohibit political debate on campus and bar students from joining political groups.

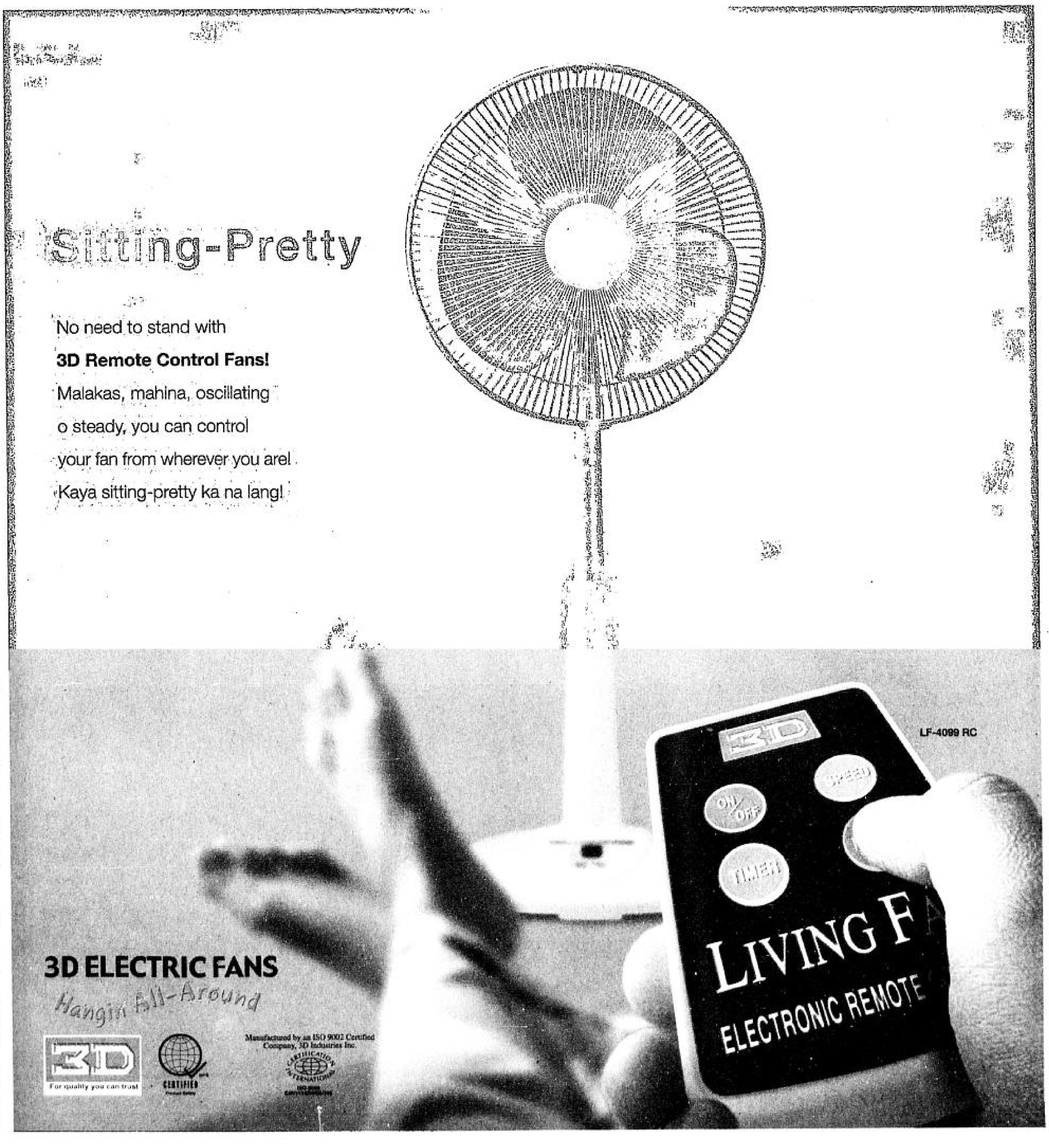
P. Ramasamy, a political science lecturer at the Malaysian National University, said the new measures would "further stifle academic freedom."

"This is a political move made just to weed out some people with anti-government sentiments," he said. "It is going to curb further the position of universities as a place for intellectual exchange."

Student activism started growing in 1998 after Mahathir sacked his heir-apparent, then-Deputy Premier Anwar Ibrahim, a former student leader who cut his teeth in Islamic politics before joining Mahathir's ruling party. The sacking triggered the biggest street protests in decades.

Anwar was convicted of corruption and sodomy and sentenced to a total of 15 years in prison. His supporters accuse Mahathir of framing Anwar to prevent a political challenge. The government denies it.

Muslim student groups have formed and organized anti-government protests. In early July, police detained two student leaders under the Internal Security Act, which allows for indefinite detention without trial. One was released Monday. *AP*



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₱1M dangled for arrest of mayor in murder raps

By VILLAMOR VISAYA JR.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SANTIAGO CITY—A P1-million cash reward awaits people who can give information that will lead to the arrest of fugitive newly elected Mayor Jose Miranda. Miranda has been in hiding since the last week of June after an arrest warrant was issued against him on double murder charges.

A local businessman who, according to residents, proposed the reward system, offered P50,000 to start the campaign to raise the P1-million reward money.

Other residents, businessmen and some politicians in the city reportedly contributed to raise the amount.

Wilfredo Baltar Sr., city information officer and Miranda's spokesperson, said the supposed cash reward was being floated by the mayor's political enemies "to destroy his credibility."

"Pempe (Miranda) is not yet convicted. He is still an accused so the criminal reward issue is just being floated," Baltar told the INQUIRER by telephone.

"Miranda is innocent and his name is only being dragged into the case."

The National Bureau of Investigation and the police tried but failed to arrest Miranda on June 25 for the 1996 murder of two suspected jueteng employees in the province.

PO2 Rodel Maderal accused Miranda of masterminding the murder of Elizer Tuliao and Vicente Bauzon. Their charred bodies were found in Barangay Purok-Ni-Bulan in Ramon, Isabela, on March 7, 1996.

Maderal also implicated SPO2 Alberto Dalmacio, PO3 Romeo Ocon, Boyet de la Cruz and a certain Boyet, all of Santiago City, as among those involved in the murder of Tuliao and Bauzon. Police have yet to arrest the four suspects.

Members of the Isabela Volunteers Against Crime (Ivac) have supported the offering of the cash reward for Miranda's arrest.

Board Member Ysmael Atienza, Ivac president, said his group would use its network to arrest Miranda and the other suspects.

"We would be ready to give information that could lead to the arrest of (Miranda)," he said.

He said Ivac members, who were credited for the solution of some crimes in the province, went to as far as Nueva Ecija to gather information on Miranda's whereabouts.

NBI officials in the province said they have widened their search for Miranda and included the nearby province of Isabela.

Lawyer Constantino Joson, NBI Cagayan Valley executive officer, assured Santiago residents that they are exerting all efforts to arrest Miranda.

"We are doing everything to arrest him at the earliest possible time," Joson said.

Virgilio Tuliao, father of the victim Elizer Tuliao, called for vigilance and asked the people to help his family attain justice for his son's death.

"*Unawain ninyo sana ako. Isang ama na nawalan ng anak. Kung kayo po ang nasa kalagayan ko—hindi lamang pinatay, sinunog, tinanggal ang mga kuko sa kamay—ano ang inyong mararamdaman* (Please understand my situation. I am a father who lost a son. If you were in my situation—they did not only kill him but they burned him, removed his fingernails—what would you feel)?" he said.

Mayor's sons sued for kidnapping of Chinese

COTABATO CITY—The provincial prosecutor's office in North Cotabato on Tuesday filed a case of "kidnapping and illegal detention" against two sons of Mayor Macabangon Montawal of Pagalungan, Maguindanao.

Charged were brothers Kautin and Andy, whose mother, Bai Annie Montawal, is also mayor of Pagagawan town.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol, head of the provincial crisis management committee, said a number of witnesses linked the Montawal brothers to the June 20 kidnapping of a Chinese engineer, Zhang Zhong Quiang.

Zhang is the procurement officer of the China Electric Power Technology Import and Export Corp. (Citec), which is building a P2.2-billion irrigation project in Carmen, North Cotabato.

The alleged involvement of the Montawal brothers brings to eight the total number of suspects charged in court in connection with the Zhang abduction, Piñol said.

Charged on July 12 were Percival Ceriales, Vicente Guingona, Jimmy Nataja, Nasser Penoliday and two still unidentified suspects.

In their affidavits, the witnesses claimed that Andy and Kautin had allowed the use of their red Nissan Pathfinder pick-up, making it easy for the kidnappers to run off with their hostage, the governor said.

He said the committee also found that Kautin was the chief security of the "blue guards" at the Malitubog-Maridagao (Mal-Mar) irrigation project that under a subcontract to Citec.

Kautin's brother, Andy, was discovered to be allegedly "the one who initially financed the (kidnap) operation," which was later taken over by a Moro Islamic Liberation Front commander, the governor said.

"I'm not saying that the MILF as an organization is involved (in the kidnap-for-ransom activity), but there are some members who are," Piñol said.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, denied MILF involvement in the Zhang kidnapping, saying that the rebel hierarchy has even promised to help the government secure the safe release of Zhang.

Kabalu said Sammy Almanzor, MILF Bangsamoro armed forces chief of staff, has been instructed to facilitate the early release of Zhang.

Kabalu said Zhang and his captors had already gone to Lanao del Sur, contrary to Piñol's insistence that they were still in hiding in Maguindanao or North Cotabato.

"This is nothing but a diversionary tactic so that the intense (military) pressure in Maguindanao and North Cotabato against the kidnappers would be called off," Piñol said.

A reward of P50,000 in cash from the provincial peace and order council was initially raised as an incentive for anyone who can provide information on the whereabouts of the kidnappers and their hostage, and possibly lead in the government rescue operation.

Piñol had appealed to the business community to help raise more reward money.

The Chinese Embassy in Manila has called up reiterating its full support to the government, Piñol said.

The kidnappers on Tuesday warned that they will behead Zhang in five days if the government and the Libyan Embassy will not negotiate for his release.

"We are giving the government until Monday," said Hamsha, leader of the Pentagon kidnap gang operating in Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao and North Cotabato.

Hamsha's group is demanding $4 million in exchange for Zhang's freedom.

Hamsha explained that they seized Zhang, 43, because the Chinese engineers are not contractors but treasure hunters. *Charlie Señase with reports from Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Baguio	Cloudy	Hi 21° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 21°
Laoag	Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/07/18/01

ROUNDUP

Convicts post bail

ILAGAN, Isabela—Two school executives who were convicted last week for molesting two high school students in 1996 have reported back to work after a court allowed them to post bail. Division superintendent Benito Tumamao said he allowed assistant division superintendent Samuel Simon and English supervisor Arturo Nano to resume their work at the education division while their case is on appeal. "The case is not yet final and executory so there is no question about it," Tumamao said. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

CLSU a tour site

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—The Central Luzon State University campus here was chosen one of three major areas for farm tour sites by the departments of tourism and agriculture. The other areas are the Oro Verde mango plantation in Guimaras and Del Monte pineapple plantation in Bukidnon. Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon said the CLSU campus was chosen to represent Luzon because of its highly advanced technological research centers and facilities in agriculture. This city also hosts the Philippine Carabao Center and the Philippine Rice Research Institute.

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Bill filed to postpone next year's village polls

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—A congressman has filed a bill seeking to postpone the barangay elections scheduled next year to May 2005.

In House Bill No. 197, Negros Oriental Rep. Herminio Teves, who won reelection, said the P1.8 billion funds that will be used for the barangay elections next year can instead be used for the computerization program of the Commission on Elections in time for the 2004 presidential and local elections.

Teves filed House Bill 197 on July 2 to ensure it will be among the first bills to be discussed by the House when the 12th Congress opens next week.

Teves expressed, the belief that the automation of the 2004 presidential and local elections must be given priority over the holding of the barangay elections.

So far, Teves said, the government has only allotted P1.9 billion for the Comelec modernization and computerization project. The budget for this project has been cut from over P8 billion to P3.4 billion after Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo dropped the voters registration and identification system (VRIS) and automated counting and consolidation of returns system (ACCORS) from the program.

The VRIS and ACCORS, two of the modernization components proposed by Commissioner Luz Tancangco, were dropped from the program for allegedly being too costly and unnecessary.

Those who would clamor for a change of leadership in the barangays may initiate recall procedures for their barangay chairmen, Teves said.

He said the same procedure might also be initiated against any Association of Barangay Council president who is a councilor in any city or municipal legislature or any ABC federation president who occupies the position of provincial board member.

The drive for the implementation of an automated presidential elections nationwide in 2004 has gotten the support of big business and civil society groups closely identified with the National Movement for Free Elections.

Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion earlier expressed confidence that if the process was computerized, "the counting would be over in five minutes."

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Another cave threatened by road project

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—After the Huluga Caves, another historic landmark in this city is threatened by destruction, all in the name of development.

The Macahambus Cave, which provided safe haven for Filipino patriots during the Philippine-American War, is now on the brink of destruction from bulldozers and other heavy equipment.

A team from the Xavier University Museum who went to the site on Saturday found the ongoing construction of the Lumbia-Talakag Road "dangerously close" to the cave.

In fact, bulldozers have already damaged a historical marker in front of the cave, according to Luis Ostique, curator of the Xavier University Museum.

"The city is about to lose another of its historical heritage. We have become a city without roots," Ostique said.

Ostique said diggings have also threatened an adjoining botanical gorge in the four-hectare Macahambus Cave complex.

He said bulldozers have already dumped soil into a site beside the Macahambus Cave and into the Cagayan de Oro River.

Cerilo Namucatcat, a security guard, said engineers have vandalized the cave when they painted its opening with road signs.

He said a smaller cave beside Macahambus Cave was already destroyed by the road construction.

Macahambus Cave is the most important historical landmark in this city and every year, elementary students are sent on field trips to study its history.

The cave is the site of a decisive battle won by Filipinos against American soldiers during the Philippine-American War.

Most of the streets in Cagayan de Oro like Gen. Apolinario Velez and Tomas Saco were named after the Filipinos who fought the Americans.

The Department of Tourism and the City of Cagayan de Oro have already raised a howl against the Department of Public Works and Highways' road project.

"The contractor can be asked to remove the loosened rocks as they roll down the road," said Dorothy Jean Pabayo, DOT regional director for Northern Mindanao.

Engineer Robert Lala, DPWH director for Northern Mindanao, said he would ask the contractors to carry out measures to ensure that the cave's destruction is stopped.

He said the contractors did not discuss the cave during the planning stages of the road construction.

He said the P300-million project is being funded by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and managed by the DPWH central office.

Froilan Gallardo, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Appointments body warned of smear campaign

A MINDANAO legislator urged yesterday members of the powerful Commission on Appointments (CA) to ignore smear campaigns against presidential nominees to the Cabinet and decide their fate on the basis of their merits or demerits.

Surigao del Norte Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. in a statement said there appears to be well-financed and systematic demolition jobs through the media and the courts against certain Cabinet appointees.

In his statement, Pichay said such vicious campaigns apparently being waged by unscrupulous spin doctors discouraged technocrats and professionals from joining the civil service and help in nation-building.

He said former legislators handpicked by the President to be members of her official family were usually the targets of the hate campaigns, among them Hernani Braganza of agrarian reform, Heherson Alvarez of environment and natural resources and Pantaleon Alvarez of transportation and communications.

"Even world-renowned environment advocate former congressman Heherson Alvarez has not been spared these vicious attacks," Pichay said.

On the other hand, the transportation and communications chief, a former Davao congressman, was the target of a "malicious open letter that found print in all major dailies."

Pichay said he suspects that the smear campaigns were being financed by profit-driven businessmen who resisted efforts by the two Alvarezes to fairly enforce government policies without fear and favor.

"Certain big businesses want the two Alvarezes out of the Cabinet or at least control them so that they can lord it over their respective sectors," Pichay said.

He added that with the opening of the next Congress and the start of CA deliberations, rumormongers and the so-called text brigades world step up their operations.

"As honorable and respectable men and women, the CA members should not allow themselves to be swayed by these character assassinations, and do their task with unassailable impartiality," he appealed.

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Military: CPP behind Sona protests

(From page A1)

test plans were being discussed openly and that mobilizations for such occasions as Sonas were established activities by militant and people's organizations.

"The element of the CPP 'tasking' these organizations is pure military propaganda," he said. "We absolutely deny that."

Militant groups that played key roles in installing Ms Macapagal as President said her announcement of a police crackdown in Metro Manila was "a desperate effort to suppress" the planned protest actions on July 23.

"She's no different from (her ousted predecessor Joseph) Estrada. She's using the police and the military to intimidate those who want to air legitimate concerns," Sammy Malunes, spokesperson of the labor alliance Kilusang Mayo Uno, told the INQUIRER.

On Tuesday, the President gave the Philippine National Police "strong marching orders" to zero in on kidnapping-for-ransom syndicates and mulcting cops in the next two weeks.

The order came a day after police arrested two suspected leaders of a communist splinter group who allegedly planned to sow terror on July 23.

'Drop points'

The military report also said Bayan Muna was planning to set up offices nationwide to funnel resources, including congressional allocations for its nominees—Ocampo, labor leader Crispin Beltran and women's issues advocate Liza Masa—to the communist underground.

"Local chapters or districts will be formally set up and maintained for networking purposes," the report said. "The districts will serve as the primary contacts for underground works (sic) and the delivery of logistical and financial support."

It also said Bayan Muna chapters would serve as "primary drop points of congressional funding."

But Bayan Muna is "not organizationally linked to the underground" and, therefore, "there is no ground to talk about drop points," Ocampo pointed out.

The report said Beltran and Masa were in charge of conducting regional and sectoral consultations in Luzon and the Visayas, respectively, in line with the establishment of the group's nationwide network.

It said activist Nathanael Santiago, who won a seat in the Caloocan City council in the May 14 elections, was in charge of networking in Mindanao.

The report also said Bayan Muna intended to use its field offices "as direct links with the masses."

To this, Ocampo said: "The only thing we have decided to do is continue setting up more chapters from the barangay to the municipal and provincial levels. There is no talk about districts."

Bayan Muna, which garnered 1.7 million votes in the May 14 elections, is present in 70 provinces and 658 municipalities nationwide, he said.

Parliamentary work

Ocampo described Bayan Muna, which was set up in September 1999, as "a party of individuals engaged in parliamentary work."

He said that when it registered as a party with the Commission on Elections, "we made a categorical statement that it does not advocate violence to attain its political objectives."

The Comelec has yet to proclaim the nominees whose groups garnered the number of votes required under the party-list system.

The military report said Bayan, KMU and youth organizations League of Filipino Students and Anakbayan, among others, would "proclaim Bayan Muna as (the) winning party-list group" on July 23 "if the House of Representatives will not proclaim it before the Sona."

But Ocampo said the planned proclamation was "only symbolic in nature." He said they expected the Comelec to make the necessary proclamations before Monday.

The military report said Bayan Muna would present its "20-point people's agenda" at rallies to be held in Metro Manila, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Western Visayas and Central Mindanao.

It said that "based on the general plan of the CPP leadership, the (CPP's Mindanao Committee) will also conduct mobilization on (sic) their AOR (areas of operation) especially in key cities."

The Mindanao protests will also highlight the recent killing, allegedly by the military, of Davao-based Bayan Muna leaders Roberto Nepa and Carmenia Abatan.

Referring to the theme of the protests, the report said: "Propaganda emphasis will be given to existing state policies and programs, which are anti-poor and anti-people."

It identified the issues to be raised as, among others, the demand for a P125 daily wage hike for workers, the special treatment supposedly being accorded Estrada, land reform and the increase in oil prices.

The report also cited the supposed plans of so-called "rejectionist" groups.

It said Sanlakas, which is identified with the slain labor leader Filemon "Popoy" Lagman, would hold work stoppages and other protest actions along with its allied groups.

Crackdown

The PNP campaign ordered by the President against kidnapping syndicates and corrupt cops is envisioned to replicate the ongoing crackdown on Abu Sayyaf members and sympathizers in the South.

But Dani Beltran, secretary general of the Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace, said the order was a "calibrated attack on human rights" and was "more unacceptable and dangerous."

The KMU's Malunes said the PNP crackdown was intended to discourage multisectoral groups from holding mass actions to air their disappointment over the President's "failure to live up to her promises at Edsa."

"We are not your enemies, so don't suppress our right to air our grievances," Ferdie Gaite of the Confederation for Unity, Advancement and Recognition of Government Employees (Courage) said, addressing the President.

"We supported you at Edsa, but unfortunately you were not able to keep your promises." He said.

According to Malunes, Ms Macapagal is using Estrada's strategy in preventing the holding of protest actions.

"Erap made up stories of possible outbreaks of violence if only to disrupt mass actions. Gloria is doing this now," Malunes said.

Workers, students, farmers and other members of multisectoral groups are taking part in the planned protest actions.

The KMU is pushing for a nationwide legislated across-the-board wage increase of P125.

More than 40 national federations and regional alliances of coconut farmers will ask the President to resolve once and for all the decades-old dispute over the coconut levy funds.

"We just want to hear even a sentence in Gloria's address stating her stand on the coco levy issue," Efren Villaseñor, president of the Pambansang Koalisyon ng mga Magsasaka at Manggagawa sa Niyugan, said in Filipino at a press conference yesterday.

"We are too poor to go to Manila, but we will march to the Batasan from the provinces if need be," he said.

The late dictator Ferdinand Marcos decreed the collection of the levy from coconut farmers from 1972 to 1983. The fund is now estimated at P120 billion. ***With a report from Christian V. Esguerra***

Two more fall in Basilan . . .

(From page A1)

were resisting arrest or tried to elude arrest."

"We assure everybody that measures are in place to protect our detainees from harm," Gepilano said, adding that the suspects had not been harmed, "just held for questioning and interrogation."

Orina's wife Mirriam wailed when she saw the bruises on his face.

"How are you? What happened to you? Please talk to me," she said as he wept.

The Orinas' 12-year-old daughter Ruhaina, a sixth-grader at the Pilot Elementary School, shouted in Tausug: "*Amah* (Father), don't leave us! What have they done to you?"

The child expressed her belief in her father's innocence.

"He's a good man. I don't know why they say he's with the Abu Sayyaf," she said. "The last time I saw him was when he took me to school on Monday."

Orina's wife said the family had no money to pay for the services of a lawyer. She said he had no other work apart from his job as a lineman at the Basilan Electric Cooperative.

Cleansing

Gepilano confirmed that members of the Armed Forces assigned in Basilan were undergoing a loyalty check.

"It is incumbent among us in the AFP to check our people for possible connections or links with the Abu Sayyaf. But we are not doing it just now. We've been doing this since before," he said.

Pangambayan, on the other hand, said a cleansing drive was in process in the police force.

He said they had discovered that a certain PO1 John Ali of the 907th Provincial Mobile Group had been identified as an Abu Sayyaf supporter.

Ali was among the first to be arrested when the crackdown started last week.

Also in the first batch was businessman Ping Chiong Tan, who is suspected of involvement in ransom negotiations for the release of the Abu Sayyaf hostages.

But businessman Manny Tan said Basilan Chinese Chamber of Commerce president Roy Tan and other officials were planning to hold protest actions or to close shop within the week if President Macapagal-Arroyo did not order Ping Tan's release.

"That man is innocent, he was just implicated," Manny Tan said. "We know his family. He does not need the money, he's rich."

Manny Tan said Ping Tan was "only tapped" by somebody close to the government to negotiate for the hostages' release.

Rights violations

Relatives of those arrested in the crackdown trooped yesterday to the Basilan Capitol Building to meet with lawyer Jose Manuel Mamauag, regional director of the Commission on Human Rights.

The group's spokesperson Adam Musa told members of the Basilan Provincial Board, PNP and AFP that most of the arrests were done without warrants, "hence the military and police violated human rights."

"I'm afraid that next time, you will report to the President that all Muslims were either killed or arrested. This practice should be stopped," Musa said.

Mobina Abbas Laktao, said her father Abdulgani Abbas, chair of Barangay Tabuk, was not only illegally arrested but also tortured.

"If he were guilty, he would have fled a long time ago. It is not true that he is a supporter of the Abu Sayyaf," she said, adding:

"We are seven siblings. Whatever he earns is not enough for us, so how can he still support the Abu Sayyaf? His only crime is that he is a resident of Tabuk."

Mamauag, however, was noncommittal.

"We are continuously monitoring and evaluating their cases . . . but for now we cannot categorically state that rights were violated," he said.

MNLF

In Davao City, lawyer Randolph Parcasio, chair of the Moro National Liberation Front's joint monitoring committee, said that they had received verbal reports of harassment and rights violations and that they were gathering evidence to prove these.

"We are going to present this to the government peace panel and the Organization of Islamic Conference," he said.

Parcasio said the series of arrests would only encourage residents of the areas included in the crackdown to "resort to other forms of redressing their grievances."

He said the government must intensify its intelligence network to make sure that those arrested were confirmed supporters or accomplices of the Abu Sayyaf.

"They should conduct accurate and surgical operations, not fishing expeditions," he said.

Parcasio, who is also legal counsel of the MNLF and administrator of the Southern Philippines Development Authority, said the arrests should have been done in accordance with the 1996 peace agreement between the government and the MNLF.

One of the provisions of that agreement is the recognition of known MNLF territories and camps.

"They should not encroach on MNLF territories," Parcasio said. "If they do that, they should coordinate with the MNLF field commanders and the joint monitoring committee."

Seahawk

The Philippine Navy is set to patrol beach resorts and coastal areas in the Visayas and Mindanao using four new boats, a support aircraft and two teams of the elite SEALS.

Vice Adm. Victorino Hingco, Navy flag officer in command, said yesterday in Manila that the vessels, aircraft and SEALS teams would make up the newly formed Task Group Seahawk.

He said Seahawk would serve as a deterrent to any threat posed by the Abu Sayyaf at sea and would also go after smugglers and pirates.

Seahawk will be ready for deployment in a week's time.

Hingco said the formation of Seahawk was in line with the President's instruction "to neutralize all sources of threats of terrorism."

Seahawk is equipped with three patrol killer medium boats (PKMs), a 78-foot gunboat and an Islander aircraft for surveillance support.

The boats are capable of speeds of more than 35 knots and are fitted with high-powered guns such as .50 cal machine guns and M-60 light machine guns.

Yesterday, Seahawk conducted a demonstration of its capability for speed runs, coastal interdiction, surgical insertions, recovery and maritime air reconnaissance.

"These ships are faster and better equipped. If we can all make them work at high speed, we have a better chance of preventing insertions by the Abu Sayyaf," Hingco said.

He said Seahawk would support some 40 other Navy craft that had formed blockades against the Abu Sayyaf.

"(The vessels) will be added to the fixed units in different areas. They can be deployed anywhere and at any time," Hingco said.

He downplayed the Abu Sayyaf's fast sea craft that had allowed the bandits to slip through Navy blockades.

"We know their capability and they do not have boats faster than ours," he said.

Last May 27, the bandits abducted 20 Filipinos and Americans from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan and escaped to Basilan by sea. ***With reports from Jonathan F. Ma and Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Alcuin Papa in Manila***

Katharine 'the great' is dead; 84

(From page A1)

at her bedside when she died at 1556 GMT. (11:56 p.m. Tuesday, Manila time).

Graham was frequently referred to as the most powerful woman in America, and indeed the world, after having given the green light to The Post to pursue the Watergate scandal, which forced the resignation of then US President Richard Nixon in 1974.

As tributes poured in from public figures and private admirers, US President George W. Bush issued a statement extolling Graham as a legend who would be sorely missed.

"Ms Graham became a legend in her own lifetime because she was a true leader and a true lady, steely yet shy, powerful yet humble, known for her integrity and always gracious and generous to others," Bush said.

Henry Kissinger, who was Nixon's national security advisor and secretary of state, said: "She ran a great newspaper."

Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, chairman emeritus of the New York Times Co., said: "Throughout the last half of the 20th century, she used her intelligence, her courage and her wit to transform the landscape of American journalism, and everyone who cares about a free and impartial press will greatly miss her. We certainly will."

Respected, feared

As chairman of the Washington Post Co. for two decades, Graham built the paper her father had purchased at bankruptcy auction into a media empire that ranked 271st on the Fortune 500 list of top American companies by the time she turned it over to her son in 1991.

GRAHAM took over Post in 1963.

Graham had been working on a book about the history of Washington. She also kept a hand in the news business, serving as chairman of the executive committee of the Post company since 1993.

Graham took over the Post in 1963 and built it into a profitable conglomerate of newspaper, magazine, broadcast and cable properties, including Newsweek magazine.

Landing on her feet

She often said her life story read like a soap opera. Instead, she chronicled it in her award-winning memoir that traced her path from self-described "doormat wife" into one of the world's most powerful women.

Her "first life," Graham said, ended in 1963 when her husband, Philip, who suffered from manic depression, committed suicide at their country home in Virginia while she was upstairs napping.

Philip Graham had been publisher of the Post, then a mediocre newspaper, and his wife had occupied herself with their four children and the life of a Georgetown matron. Suddenly widowed at 46, she stepped into her husband's shoes to take over the Post, at first with timidity but later with sure-footed authority.

"What I essentially did was to put one foot in front of the other, shut my eyes, and step off the ledge," she wrote in "Personal History."

"The surprise was that I landed on my feet."

Lonely moment

The steadfastness with which she turned the Post into a powerhouse newspaper was most visible during the turbulent 1970s, in the showdown over the Pentagon Papers, a secret study of the Vietnam War, and in the Post's dogged pursuit of the Watergate scandal that brought down President Richard Nixon.

At the critical moment in 1971 when she made the decision to publish the Pentagon Papers, in defiance of government protests and against legal advice—but after The New York Times had already broken the story—a frightened Graham gulped and said, "Let's go. Let's publish."

Then came Watergate. Far ahead of other news organizations on a momentous political scandal, the Post felt the brunt of presidential wrath and drew criticism from readers who felt the paper was out to get Nixon.

"It was a particularly lonely moment for us at the paper. I sometimes privately thought: If this is such a hell of a story, then where is everybody else?"

Lady Pub

"Lady Pub," as she came to be known in the newsroom, could be ruthless in hiring and firing staff, coarse in her language and immovable when pushed too far, as when she broke a violent strike by Post pressmen in 1975 and replaced them with nonunion workers.

By 1980, she was No. 1 on the World Almanac's list of the America's 25 most influential women, and along the way, had become a powerful role model for women.

Her close friends included Corazon Aquino, US Presidents Lyndon B. Johnson and Ronald Reagan, Valery Giscard D'Estaing of France, Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic, Chancellor Willy Brandt of Germany and Prime Minister Edward Heath of Britain.

Invitations to her elegant Georgetown home or her Martha's Vineyard retreat became as coveted as those to the White House.

Former US President Ronald Reagan attended her 70th birthday party and toasted her as a "sensitive, thoughtful and very kindly person." Princess Diana walked the Vineyard beaches with her, confiding her aspirations for her sons.

And, earlier this year she hosted a dinner party for the new US president, George W. Bush, to introduce him to the Washington power elite.

She is survived by three sons including Donald, chairman and chief executive officer of The Washington Post Co., one daughter, 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. ***Reports from AP and AFP***

She gave Washington Post ultimate journalistic gift: Independence

(From page A1)

status in a business where the qualities of the boss are critical. Katharine Graham gave her employees at The Washington Post the ultimate journalistic gift: absolute independence.

Freedom of the press is guaranteed only to those who own one, quipped A.J. Liebling, the wise if cynical press critic who wrote in the old New Yorker. But he was wrong. Katharine Graham guaranteed freedom of the press to The Post's journalists as though it were their birthright, not just hers. The Washington Post belonged to her, but she turned over the job of shaping it to us, unreservedly.

In all the years she ran The Washington Post Co., she never told us what to cover or what to write, whom to praise or whom to investigate. In the splendid organization she helped create, the people in the news department are totally insulated from the proprietor's opinions. Only the ideal boss could have created this situation.

Ideal is not the same as perfect—the purpose here is not hagiography. Ms Graham was a complicated person, riddled with insecurities, awkward in many unfamiliar situations, too easily impressed by people with big titles. She didn't have many pals in the newsroom and didn't often invite the hired help into her personal life, though she was always accessible to talk shop. She could scare the bejesus out of staff members who didn't normally deal with her and who couldn't help thinking that the glaring look of disapproval she had just given them threatened their livelihood.

But those looks were usually provoked by what Ms Graham considered violations of proper decorum and they had no enduring consequences. One of the many ironies of Katharine Graham's persona was her chronic discomfort with confrontation.

Pretty dreadful snob

When a reporter aggressively questioned a public official at her lunch table in a way she considered impolite, the look on her face was transparent: What bad manners! I wish I were somewhere else! On other occasions, she asked the tough questions herself.

It's also true that she could be a pretty dreadful snob about some people. But then she could turn around and embrace her humblest employee like a long-lost grandchild. She understood that a big organization putting out a daily newspaper depended on everyone, not just the big names and made a point of showing her appreciation when she could. Many was the time she would turn to her neighbor at a Post lunch and ask in too loud a whisper, "Who is that?" of a new reporter who just asked a question. The reporter would be mortified, of course, but later he might discover that Ms Graham knew his name and had read his story.

An almost paternalistic interest in the staff was something Ms Graham had learned from her father, Eugene Meyer. He and Philip Graham, her husband who ran the paper for 16 years before he committed suicide, both had good relations with the workforce, including the blue-collar union members who worked in the small factory that produced The Post each night. This was important history at the time of the biggest crisis of Ms Graham's career.

Historic strike

This was not, as popular mythology might have it, the Pentagon Papers or Watergate. It was the strike against The Post by its pressmen, which began before dawn on Oct. 1, 1975, when members of the union vandalized the pressroom, tried to set it on fire and beat up a night foreman, sending him to the hospital for a dozen stitches above one eye. That was the beginning of a strike that lasted 4 1/2 months and changed the course of history—for The Post, and for the American newspaper business.

It's hard to remember now that before the pressmen's strike, trade unions held positions of enormous power in most of America's big newspapers.

Katharine Graham had been publisher of The Post for a dozen years when the strike erupted. She and her managers had already begun trying to rationalize the labor contracts. Composing room employees agreed to a deal, but the pressmen went on strike, violently.

Agony

During Watergate, Ms Graham's job was simply to support her troops. In the Pentagon Papers case she made a huge decision, but it came and went in a flash. In the strike she alone was the responsible executive and for nearly five months she anxiously second-guessed herself and agonized about the outcome.

The agony was visible to those who saw her regularly during the strike. She thought, and talked and worried about it constantly. Many of her best friends told her to back down and make a deal. She refused.

Ultimately The Post made a final offer that the pressmen rejected and the paper began to hire replacement workers. In a confidential conversation, George Meany, the president of the AFL-CIO, asked Ms Graham what she would have done if the pressmen had accepted that final offer.

"Slit my throat," she replied.

By that time she was sure she didn't want them back in her newspaper. She was delighted with the new pressroom crew, which for the first time included numerous women and minorities.

In her memoir Ms Graham devoted nearly 70 pages to the strike and 45 pages to Watergate. She understood the strike as the great test of her business career and felt she handled it correctly, so it became not only a victory over the pressmen but over her own sense of inadequacy as well.

Before the strike, The Post had never been highly profitable, but afterward—and especially after the Washington Star folded in 1981—profits soared. Unions at The Post and at other papers began to shy away from confrontations with newspapers they now knew could publish without them and the world began to change.

Ambivalent

Katharine Graham, business executive, was always an ambivalent personage, in part because she battled for years with her intuitive sense that women didn't belong in the boardroom. Amazingly, in 1969, six years after she took over The Post, she told an interviewer: "In the world today, men are more able than women at executive work . . . I think a man would be better at this job I'm in than a woman."

The women who worked for her—a group that grew enormously in the years that she ran the paper, from a tiny fraction to a very substantial minority of the staff—had special feelings about Ms Graham. Partly this was because she let them see her as both the grand and imposing boss and as a woman and would also take them seriously.

She also liked to gossip.

Even for those who got to spend quite a lot of time with her, Katharine Graham was a tough nut to crack. She had a hard veneer, a combination of good manners, shyness and personal awkwardness that helped her to hide in public. She wasn't good at small talk, or at putting people at ease. She was a grande dame for nearly four decades, which is a long run in that part.

Journalists like to figure people out, but she often seemed beyond figuring.

Her own true voice

Then in 1997 her book appeared. This was real revelation. It was also difficult for some of the writers who worked for her to deal with. Her employees wrote a great many books while working for The Post, but it seems unlikely that our descendants will consider any of them as good as Katharine Graham's "Personal History." In the course of revealing herself over 600 pages, she demonstrated masterful literary skills—Pulitzer Prize-winning skills, as it turned out. And anyone who had spent 15 minutes in her company knew that the book was her own true voice, no one else's.

It was enough to make a guy jealous—nearly. Jealousy was difficult once you absorbed the story. Its details explained a great deal about Ms Graham's idiosyncrasies. The book demonstrated just how much pain and deprivation she had suffered. It made her vastly more human than that grande dame we saw in the newsroom and a lot more likable, too.

Happily, "Personal History" also offered clues to the joyful, laugh-loving person we sometimes got to see in the newsroom.

Many of the stories came as complete surprises. For example, before the book appeared none of us had heard of Eugene "Pat" Patton, who ran the warehousemen's union in San Francisco before World War II. Patton was an important person on the labor beat and Katharine Meyer (later Graham) was a young reporter covering that beat for the San Francisco News. Patton was "a wonderfully romantic figure," she wrote in her memoir.

Then the real dish: "In a most unprofessional manner, I realize now, Pat and I became more than friends: he was an early romance of mine. We really liked each other—he was not only highly intelligent but very good-looking. Some weeks after we met, I realized that he was married. I also realized he had a serious drinking problem."

This was Katharine Graham in her first year out of college, romancing a good-looking spouse who was cheating on his wife while fighting courageously for the downtrodden warehousemen. All right!

Loving the troops

But there were more substantial reasons why we liked working for her. She may have turned the paper over to her hired hands, but Ms Graham never lost interest in its contents. That experience as a labor writer in San Francisco was the real thing: She adored chasing a good story. You couldn't be the ideal boss unless you loved and understood, what the troops were doing.

For this reporter the enduring memory of Katharine Graham as newswoman will be the interview a group of us had with Mikhail Gorbachev in 1988. Ms Graham, Meg Greenfield, Jim Hoagland and I, joined by Rick Smith of Newsweek, spent weeks preparing for this opportunity. Ms Graham was our drill sergeant. When we got to Moscow, she wanted to keep planning, so we held more meetings as we walked in the open air in Gorky Park, away from KGB microphones, we hoped.

When we walked into Gorbachev's office, Katharine Graham was beautifully coiffed and nervous as a schoolgirl (as was I). But she looked him straight in the eye and asked the long-planned first question, then followed up. We had a fascinating conversation with the man who changed the modern world.

Then, trouble: urgent calls from Soviet officials, who told us Gorbachev had been upset by one of our questions, which referred to splits in the Communist Party leadership and mentioned one of his rivals by name. We had to change the transcript of the interview before publication, they insisted, by removing that name.

A senior official was sent to persuade Ms Graham to do this. She listened to him for a long while, then responded. The Washington Post does not censor itself for anyone, she said firmly and calmly. We wouldn't agree to such a request from the President of the United States, and we won't agree to it for the President of the Soviet Union. She apologized more than once for this immutable fact of life, but there it was. Finally the emissary from Gorbachev gave up. Another senior official accompanying him said to Ms Graham as they left, "Don't worry, you won't be arrested."

The ideal boss.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BILLIARDS: World Professional Pool Championships 2001, Day 5, 1st Session at 11 a.m. (r), 2nd Session at 5 p.m. (r), Day 6, 1st Session at 9 p.m., 2nd Session tomorrow at 2 a.m. on ESPN

GOLF: PGA Greater Milwaukee Open, Final Round at 8 a.m. (r), Highlights at 11:30 p.m. on Star Sports

LPGA Michelob Light Classic, Second Round at 2 p.m. (r) on ESPN

SPORTS

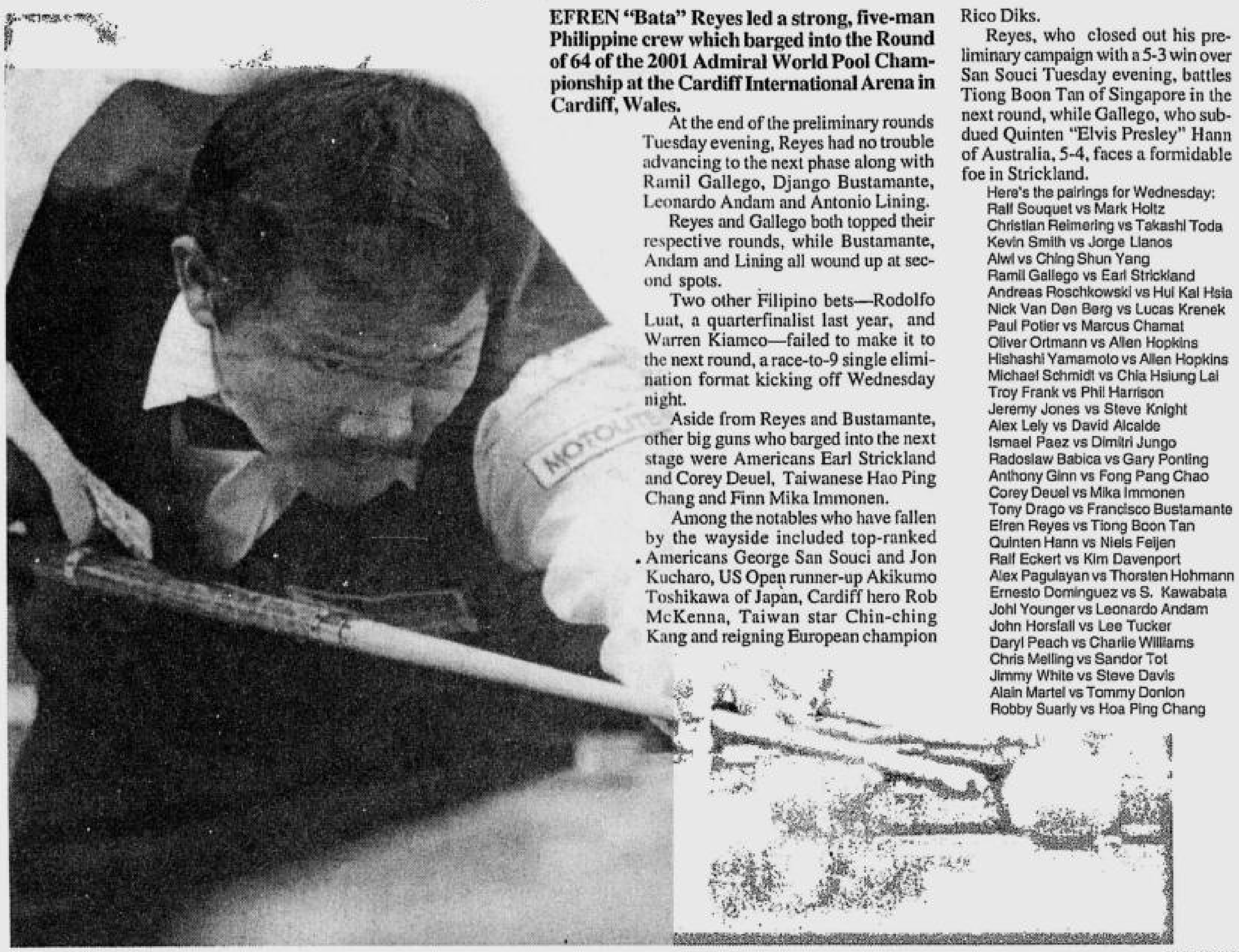
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Tiger's new challenge

LYTHAM ST. ANNES, England—As if the wind whipping off the Irish Sea and the 196 bunkers at Royal Lytham and St. Annes were not enough, Tiger Woods got another reminder that a new challenge awaits at the British Open. Royal and Ancient Golf Club secretary Peter Dawson called Woods' agent Tuesday with an important message: We need you to return the claret jug. How long it leaves Woods' possession is uncertain. *AP*

CARDIFF WORLD POOL

'Bata' tows 4 Pinoys



BATA: Has recaptured 1999 form that made him world champion..

FILE PHOTO

EFREN "Bata" Reyes led a strong, five-man Philippine crew which barged into the Round of 64 of the 2001 Admiral World Pool Championship at the Cardiff International Arena in Cardiff, Wales.

At the end of the preliminary rounds Tuesday evening, Reyes had no trouble advancing to the next phase along with Ramil Gallego, Django Bustamante, Leonardo Andam and Antonio Lining.

Reyes and Gallego both topped their respective rounds, while Bustamante, Andam and Lining all wound up at second spots.

Two other Filipino bets—Rodolfo Luat, a quarterfinalist last year, and Warren Kiamco—failed to make it to the next round, a race-to-9 single elimination format kicking off Wednesday night.

Aside from Reyes and Bustamante, other big guns who barged into the next stage were Americans Earl Strickland and Corey Deuel, Taiwanese Hao Ping Chang and Finn Mika Immonen.

Among the notables who have fallen by the wayside included top-ranked Americans George San Souci and Jon Kucharo, US Open runner-up Akikumo Toshikawa of Japan, Cardiff hero Rob McKenna, Taiwan star Chin-ching Kang and reigning European champion Rico Diks.

Reyes, who closed out his preliminary campaign with a 5-3 win over San Souci Tuesday evening, battles Tiong Boon Tan of Singapore in the next round, while Gallego, who subdued Quinten "Elvis Presley" Hann of Australia, 5-4, faces a formidable foe in Strickland.

Here's the pairings for Wednesday:

Ralf Souquet vs Mark Holtz
Christian Reimering vs Takashi Toda
Kevin Smith vs Jorge Llanos
Alwi vs Ching Shun Yang
Ramil Gallego vs Earl Strickland
Andreas Roschkowski vs Hui Kai Hsia
Nick Van Den Berg vs Lucas Krenek
Paul Potier vs Marcus Chamat
Oliver Ortmann vs Allen Hopkins
Hishashi Yamamoto vs Allen Hopkins
Michael Schmidt vs Chia Hsiung Lai
Troy Frank vs Phil Harrison
Jeremy Jones vs Steve Knight
Alex Lely vs David Alcalde
Ismael Paez vs Dimitri Jungo
Radoslaw Babica vs Gary Ponting
Anthony Ginn vs Fong Pang Chao
Corey Deuel vs Mika Immonen
Tony Drago vs Francisco Bustamante
Efren Reyes vs Tiong Boon Tan
Quinten Hann vs Niels Feijen
Ralf Eckert vs Kim Davenport
Alex Pagulayan vs Thorsten Hohmann
Ernesto Dominguez vs S. Kawabata
Johl Younger vs Leonardo Andam
John Horsfall vs Lee Tucker
Daryl Peach vs Charlie Williams
Chris Melling vs Sandor Tot
Jimmy White vs Steve Davis
Alain Martel vs Tommy Donlon
Robby Suarly vs Hoa Ping Chang

BUSTAMANTE

ANDAM

LINING

Agojo 2 down off leaders

SAN DIEGO, California—Jayvee Agojo shot a one-over-par 73 yesterday to stay just two strokes behind the leaders in her division in the 34th Junior World championships here.

Agojo, a 14-year-old sophomore at OB Montessori Greenhills, made three birdies at the Oak Glen course of Singing Hills and grabbed a share of fourth spot.

The leaders were Kayla Morinagi of Hawaii and Jennifer Ostorn of California with similar 71s in the girls 13-14.

Dorothy Delasin won this event in 1994.

Tonton Asistio and IG Gutierrez also had impressive starts in the boys 13-14 at the Lawrence Walk resort course while Artemio Murakami (15-17 years) and John Kier Abdon (9-10) look poised to make a good run at the top plum in their respective divisions.

Asistio and Gutierrez scored three-over 65s to be in the Top 10. They trailed the Mexican leader by six shots.

Murakami, playing his farewell stint here, shot a 73 spiked by four birdies. He was five shots behind.

The jungolfers' stint is sponsored by Northwest, Adidas, Taylor Made and the Philippine Sports Commission.

Ramos golf set

THE RAMOS Peace and Development Foundation (RPDEV) will again host its annual fellowship and fund-raising golf tournament for friends and supporters as it stages the third FVR-RPDEV Cup July 21 at the Aoki Course of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club. Funds generated will support the RPDEV programs which include donations of contemporary and historical books to public libraries and schools, lecture series on significant issues and scholarship programs.

The shotgun tee-off will be led by former President Ramos. Early registrants include ICTSI's Ricky Razon, LaPanday Foods' Luis Lorenzo and Globe Telecoms' Delfin Lazaro. Others expected to participate in the event, staged by the Professional Sports Management Group, are the members of the diplomatic corps. For details, please contact RPDEV office at 887-8964.

Paul, Carlo jet ski picks

SUBIC—Defending champion Paul del Rosario and Carlo Baltao try to fortify their bids for the coveted Rider of the Year award as the 2001 Petron National Jetsports Series resumes with its second leg this weekend, July 21-22, at the Waterfront Beach here.

Both Del Rosario and Baltao garnered a perfect 120 points in last month's kickoff of this series sponsored by Petron Corp. and WG&A Super Ferry.

Del Rosario, eyeing a third straight crown, pulled a wide margin against his rivals to rule the premiere Expert Super Stock Runabout 1200 class while Baltao got his share of the limelight in the Expert Super Stock Runabout 785 division.

Out to challenge the two are 1998 champion John Dee, Pagadian City-native Rene Pamaran, Wacky "The Superwoman" del Rosario, Ben Sun Que, and young riders BJ Ang and James Baltao.

"Expect a close, tough race this weekend since all riders are aiming to beef up their bids for the titles at stake," said Joey Mantolino, president of the organizing Jet Sports Association of the Philippines who expects a bigger field this weekend.

Chariot prevails

CHARIOT Skygo leaned on the heroics of MVP Reggie Licanda to slip past ML Kwarta Padala with a come-from-behind 70-69 overtime victory for its second straight win in the CBL Commissioner's Cup at the New Cebu Coliseum. M. Lhuillier joined Chariot Skygo in the lead with an 88-65 victory over Dazz Greasebusters.

Purefoods clips Red Bull, gains No. 2

BY JUNE NAVARRO

PUREFOODS secured the No. 2 spot going into the quarterfinals after a resounding 85-75 victory over Red Bull last night in the PBA Commissioners' Cup at the Philsports Arena.

Getting the needed spunk from Richard Yee and old reliable Alvin Patrimonio, the Hotdogs pounced on the Thunder's lethargic stance en route to closing their elimination campaign with a 6-2 record.

Filling the void left by Andy Seigle in the middle, Yee had a career-high 23 points, while Patrimonio, though chipping in only 15 markers, proved to be instrumental at the height of the Hotdogs' breakaway effort.

"There's a need to step up so what I did was respond to the call. Really, nothing spectacular," said Yee, who admitted acting second fiddle the moment Seigle suits up for the Hotdogs in the next round.

Although the defeat relegated the Thunder to third with a similar 6-2 record, coach Yeng Guiao's wards are still protected by a twice-to-beat incentive going into the next phase.

Living up to his billing as the Hotdogs main man, Patrimonio drilled in three consecutive treys as the Hotdogs took a commanding 54-43 lead early in third quarter.

Then the Thunder, through the combined efforts of Davonn Harp and Antonio Lang, clawed back to within, 54-60. But that was the closest the Thunder could get as the Hotdogs buried their opponents with torrid outside shots down the stretch to the cheers of the gallery.

Sta. Lucia Realty complicated matters following an 81-77 triumph over Mobiline in the second game.

The Realtors improved to 5-4 and advanced to the next round, while the Phone Pals, at 3-6, set a rubber match against Shell on Friday for a berth in the quarterfinals.

Scores:

PUREFOODS 85—Yee 23, Wood 17, Patrimonio 15, Evangelista 9, Fernandez 9, Feihl 6, Yap 4, Castillo 2, Magsanoc 0, Escobar 0, Victoria 0, Guerrero 0.

RED BULL 75—Lang 17, Miller 14, Harp 13, Torion 11, Raymundo 6, Pennisi 6, Tugade 4, Agustin 2, Briones 2, Valenzuela 0.

Quarters: 19-23, 43-37, 65-58, 85-75.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	55	37	.598	_
Boston	54	39	.581	1 1/2
Toronto	44	50	.468	12
Baltimore	41	52	.441	14 1/2
Tampa Bay	30	64	.319	26
Central				
Minnesota	57	36	.613	_
Cleveland	52	39	.571	4
Chicago	46	45	.506	10
Detroit	40	50	.444	15 1/2
Kansas City	36	57	.387	21
West				
Seattle	67	26	.720	_
Oakland	49	44	.527	18
Anaheim	45	48	.484	22
Texas	38	55	.409	29

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	52	41	.559	_
Philadelphia	52	41	.559	_
Florida	48	46	.511	4 1/2
New York	43	52	.453	10
Montreal	40	54	.426	12 1/2
Central				
Chicago	54	38	.587	_
Houston	51	41	.554	3
St. Louis	47	45	.511	7
Milwaukee	43	49	.467	11
Pittsburgh	35	57	.380	19
Cincinnati	35	58	.376	19 1/2
West				
Arizona	54	39	.58L	_
Los Angeles	52	42	.553	2 1/2
San Francisco	49	45	.521	5 1/2
San Diego	44	50	.468	10 1/2
Colorado	40	53	.430	14

INTERLEAGUE

Chicago White Sox 8, Milwaukee 4; Chicago Cubs 7, Kansas City 4; Oakland 3, Colorado 2; Anaheim 8, San Diego 7; Seattle 6, Arizona 1; Montreal 11, Boston 7; Detroit 3, Cincinnati 1; Florida 8, Baltimore 3; San Francisco 10, Texas 2; N.Y. Yankees 4, Philadelphia 1, 12 innings; N.Y. Mets 1, Toronto 0; Atlanta 4, Tampa Bay 0; Cleveland 10, Houston 4; St. Louis 4, Minnesota 2. *AP*

Mitchell powers Cebu 5 past Socsargen, 103-97

GAMES FRIDAY *(San Luis Complex, Sta. Cruz, Laguna)*
3:00 p.m. Davao vs LBC Batangas
5:30 p.m. Andok's San Juan vs FedEx Laguna

CABANATUAN CITY—Matthew Mitchell sparkled as Cebuana Lhuillier downed Socsargen, 103-97, in the MBA First Phase yesterday at the Araullo Centrum here.

Mitchell unloaded a career-high of 39 points, grabbed 17 rebounds, issued six assists and had three steals to power the Gems to their eighth win in 12 outings.

The Marlins, whom the Gems blasted a month ago (114-99), fell to 2-9.

With Mitchell at the helm, the Gems took control in the second quarter to build a 74-59 lead, 4:12 in the third period.

When the Marlins closed too within 93-94 late in the fourth, Mitchell delivered to bail Cebu out of trouble.

The 6-6 Fil-Am scored on an alley-hoop pass from Peter Naron then calmly sank his freethrows off Cris Bade to give the Gems a 98-93 bubble, 3:33 left.

SPORTSWATCH

Pasay derby on

PASAY CITY Cockpit's 14th Anniversary 5-Cock Derby, a yearly cockfighting festival that attracts well-known cockers and breeders due to its unique format of providing valuable gifts to participants, blasts off at exactly 10 a.m. today. The finals is on Saturday, July 21. "Because of Pasay Cockpit's trademark of providing valuable anniversary gifts to participants and paying patrons, bonus prizes and big cash prizes to the winners, this event is highly awaited by prominent derbyists," according to pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano.

PMI cagers shine

REIGNING CUSA champion Philippine Maritime Institute made an auspicious debut in the 3rd Spaceland-NBC Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament Tuesday by beating Mighty Tobacco Corp., 80-74, at the Makati Coliseum. The game was close from the start with PMI inching ahead, 35-33, at the turn. Earlier, Wang's Ball Club routed Hub Net Café, 88-70. Wang's outgunned Hub, 19-9, in the third quarter en route to the lopsided victory which matched Hub's 1-1 record in the tourney sponsored by Pisong Asin, Spring Margarine, Tanduay Distillery, Red Bull, Mobiline, Sta. Lucia Realty and FedEx and supported by Milo.

Lance makes move

L'ALPE D'HUEZ, France — Lance Armstrong surged past his rivals to win a grueling climb in the French Alps Tuesday, taking a huge step toward winning his third Tour de France title in as many years. Crossing the finish line, he raised both arms in victory, then punched the air with his fist. "It's a mystical stage that we wanted to win," said the Texan after reaching the summit of L'Alpe d'Huez in the race's 10th stage.

Surprising NU battles Ateneo

STANDINGS	W	L		W	L
La Salle	1	0	Ateneo	0	1
FEU	1	0	UE	0	1
UP	1	0	Adamson	0	1
NU	1	0	UST	0	1

GAMES TODAY (Loyola Gym)
12:30 p.m.—Ateneo vs NU (Jrs)
2:30 p.m.—Ateneo vs NU (Srs)
5:00 p.m.—FEU vs UP (Srs)

NATIONAL University is aiming for two birds with one stone today in the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Loyola Gym: Beat Ateneo and, in the process, send Ateneo coach Joe Lipa to retirement.

NU's mission is makeable as the Bulldogs, unleashing a brand-new game, routed seven-time champion University of the East last Sunday, 94-74.

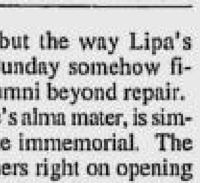
The INQUIRER learned yesterday that Ateneo alumni officials, in an emergency meeting, have given Lipa two games for him to keep his job.

"Lipa needs to beat both NU on Thursday (today) and Far Eastern U on Sunday or he gets automatically fired as Ateneo coach," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "One loss and that's the end of the line for Lipa."

NCAA today *(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)*
12nn—CSB vs PCU (jrs/srs)
3 p.m.—Letran vs San Beda (jrs/srs)

The Joe Lipa riddle

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

IF it is true that Joe Lipa is under the gun, my heart just simply bleeds for him. Here's a man who has literally dedicated his life to coaching. There were others before him. There are many others like him today. People wanting to coach basketball teams are countless. They just don't know, don't realize, how difficult a life of coaching is.

But then, man is basically a romantic. Challenges, like Mt. Everest to mountain climbers, are to be scaled. Coaches are like that. Not only in basketball but literally in all other games that need coaches.

Two years ago, Joe Lipa almost made Ateneo UAAP basketball champion again.

Last year, fate was unkind, losing two straight to Far Eastern U to waste a twice-to-beat incentive he had earned going to the Final Four; one win over FEU would have pushed the Eagles to the finals once more against the Archers.

The UAAP has just started but the way Lipa's Eagles lost to the Archers last Sunday somehow finally blew the egos of Ateneo alumni beyond repair.

Ateneo, my Florida-based uncle's alma mater, is simply the proudest school since time immemorial. The Eagles getting routed by the Archers right on opening day was, to the onion-skinned alumni, as ghastly a sight as the headless bodies of Abu Sayyaf kidnap victims.

I can't blame the Ateneo alumni if they behave the way they behave, especially those who shell out millions to support the Eagles almost yearly in their UAAP campaign.

And so, the question: Will Joe Lipa get fired if he lost one of his next two games, starting with today's match against National University? Ateneo's next opponent on Sunday is Far Eastern University.

If you ask me, everything is speculative at this stage. If it has not happened, it has not happened.

But then again, if it is true that Joe Lipa is under the gun, I can only sympathize with him. If I were him and the threat is real, I will have to choose between resigning before today's game against NU and resigning after beating both NU and FEU. Either choice would be nice. But if Joe Lipa would want to put some dash of theatrics, he'd have to resign after his Eagles had won their next two games.

Or resign after beating NU today.

Romantics are incurably uneven in mind, remember?

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

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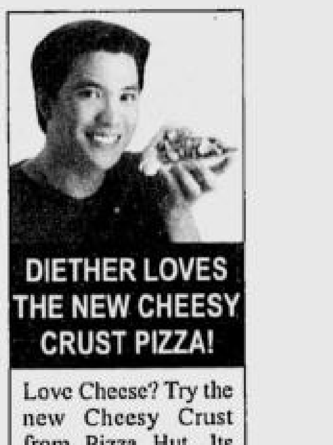
Race 2—1. Black Force 2. Yoko Lady 3. Turkish Delight 4. Forever Royale
Race 3—1. Time Specialist 2. Rising Fast 3. D Barrister 4. Play by Play
Race 4—1. Terminal Bound 2. Gracious Heart 3. Southern Glory 4. As for Me
Race 5—1. Fair Warning 2. Earth Angel 3. Knows Love 4. Go Johnny Go
Race 6—1. Charisma 2. Proud Idol 3. Dynamite Miss
Race 7—1. Victoria Scarlet 2. Arch Rival 3. Fighting Words 4. Dragon Doding
Race 8—1. Royal Harvest 2. Fire Mouth 3. Breathless Charm 4. Touch of Jax
Race 9—1. Rivine Master 2. Party Princess 3. Khazan 4. Music City



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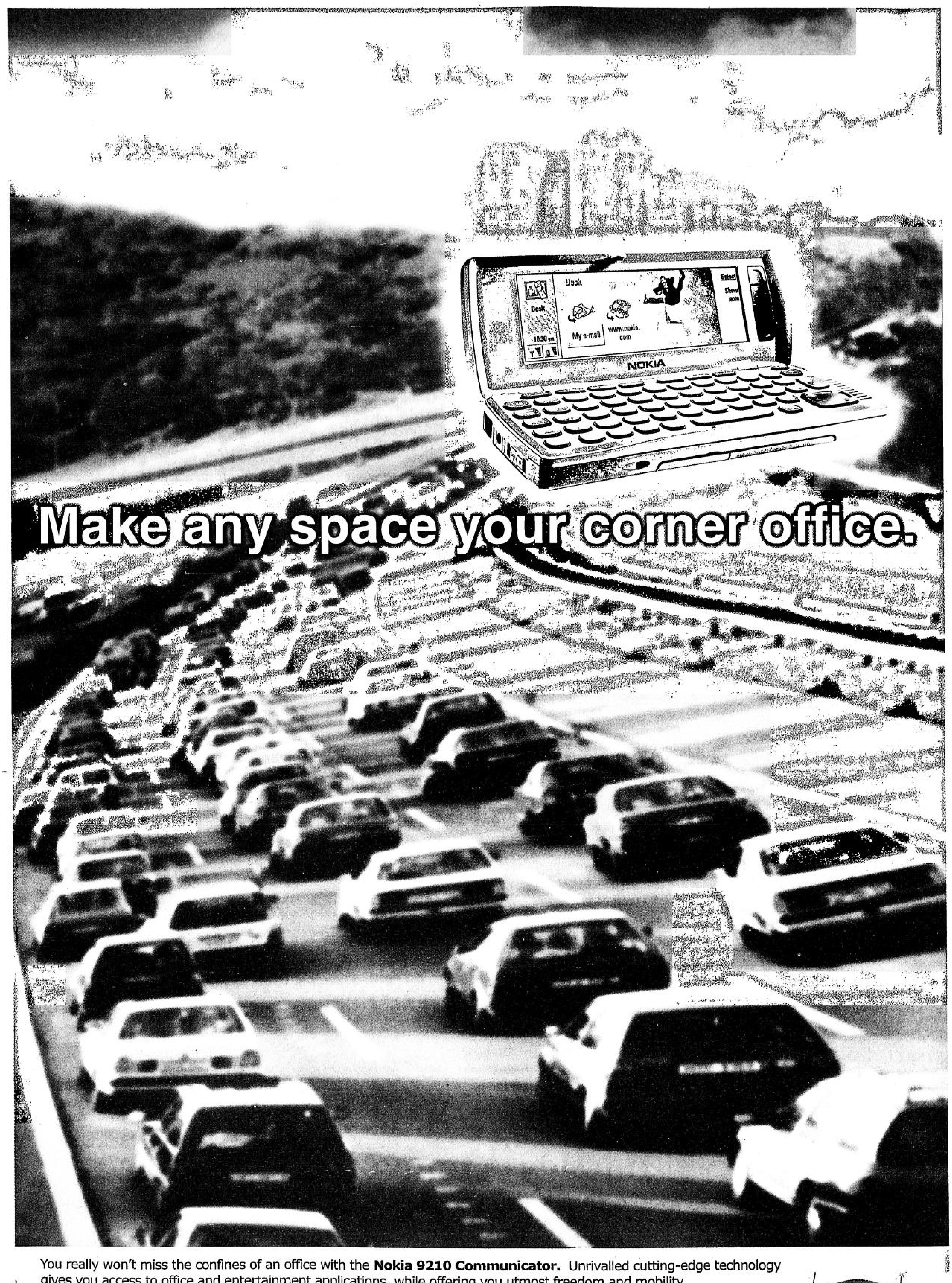

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

P3.4-M drug check seized in jail raid

COPS sort out items seized during Manila City Jail raid.

BY JEROME ANING

ALLEGATIONS that illegal drug transactions are taking place inside the city jail itself were bolstered when Bureau of Jail Management and Penology personnel found an unsigned check for P3.4 million and mobile phone units in the cell of a suspected drug trafficker yesterday morning.

The check and two Nokia cell phones, models 3310 and 3210, were found in the jail cell of suspected drug trafficker Peter Co, according to Chief Supt. Arturo Alit, BJMP officer in charge.

Alit did not tell reporters from which bank the check was issued.

BJMP inspectors were also surprised when they found air conditioning units were installed in cell numbers 10, 2, 9 and 11.

One of the aircon units was found in Co's cell, while the other was installed in the cell of murder suspect Julio Bong Desierto, reportedly the "mayor" of the Batang City Jail gang and a nephew of Ombudsman Aniano Desierto.

Four of the units appeared to be new while the rest are old and rusting but still operational.

The inspection, dubbed "Operation Greyhound," took place at around 6 a.m. Alit ordered the jail's 3,400 inmates to quickly march out of their cells and to assemble on the compound's quadrangle.

Aside from the aircons, jail guards also seized P18,000 in various denominations, a fistful of marijuana, four sachets of shabu, a "vibrator," dozens of knives and other bladed weapons, and a sackful of drug paraphernalia.

Alit told reporters he would order an investigation on the check and cell phones found in Co's cell. He also asked the jail warden, Chief Insp. Magumnang Dipantar, to explain how the aircon units found their way into the jail cells.

Alit suspected several inmates are being accorded VIP status in jail.

But when asked about the aircon units, Dipantar claimed he did not know about them. He told reporters they were probably installed during the terms of his predecessors.

The BJMP director also ordered the 220 city jail personnel to be tested for drug abuse, threatening to dismiss those who tested positive.

Alit said most jail inmates are drug users.

Young mayor nips jail drug abuse in the bud

ABALOS

BY AGNES DONATO

IN Mandaluyong City, there may be no room for drug abuse inside prison cells.

Reason: inmates not only get free board and lodging. Now, they also have free health care, meaning they are subjected to regular check-ups.

Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos has instructed city health and jail officials to subject the prisoners inside the city jail to chest X-ray and complete medical examination to prevent the outbreak of any contagious diseases in the detention center.

By doing so, the young mayor could be nipping the drug menace inside the cells in the bud.

Abalos made the order after having inspected the jail facilities last Monday and seen for himself the plight of the inmates who were deprived of preventive medical attention.

The examinations, which would start on Monday next week, would reportedly cost the city government at least P50,000.

The Mandaluyong City jail has a total of 501 detainees, 49 of whom are women and 31 juvenile delinquents, according to jail warden Insp. Orlando Galang.

"These inmates may have committed crimes but they should not be deprived of their medical needs," the mayor said.

He added that the move would also benefit other city residents, as it would prevent the spread of contagious diseases such as tuberculosis, hepatitis, cholera and boils in the locality.

Abalos had already instructed Galang to coordinate with Dr. Alfredo Lo, director of the city health office, for the conduct of the medical tests.

The chest X-rays would be done on the inmates by schedule at the city-run Mandaluyong City Medical Center.

On Target: More about Ping Lacson A16

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Callboys, homosexuals nabbed at CCP

By Alcuin Papa

SOME 16 callboys and homosexuals engaging in sexual activities on the grounds of the Cultural Center of the Philippines were arrested by Pasay City police on Tuesday night.

Senior Insp. Joaquin Alva, commander of Police Station 1 identified the suspects as Roberto Constantino, 36; Leonel Corocoto, 21; Rizalito Isip, 38; Jonathan Alvarez, 19; Edmund Bagsik, 19; Lolito Maso, 30; Andy Collado, 31; Judy Apaya, 18; Jonar Verona Biana, 19; Joseph Pepito, 27; Allan Enero, 34; Joel Bolanos, 20 and Micheal Lao, 19.

All of those arrested were locked up at the Pasay City Jail while charges of vagrancy were being readied against them.

Alva said the suspects were arrested by a patrol team led by PO2 Conrado Paras at around 11:35 p.m. in darkened corners around the Boom na Boom Carnival site of the CCP Complex.

Paras noticed the suspects acting suspiciously and seemed to be engaging in sexual acts. When the police officers approached the group, the suspects scampered in different directions but were later rounded up.

Alva said his men would continue to patrol the CCP Complex area and arrest anybody engaging in criminal activities.

He also warned callboys, homosexuals and prostitutes from plying their craft, saying police would not hesitate to arrest them.

Cop kills fellow cop: Double-cross?

By Alcuin Papa

A PASAY City police officer was gunned down in broad daylight yesterday by a man believed to be his fellow officer.

The victim was identified as SPO2 Francisco Dela Cruz, 51, married, and assigned to the Pasay police station 1 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex.

Dela Cruz succumbed to 9 mm automatic bullet wounds in his head and at the side of his body.

The suspect, whom investigators said could be a fellow policeman, escaped after the shooting.

Based on the investigation conducted by SPO2 Eduardo Cabria of the Pasay City Police Criminal Investigation Division, the incident occurred around 2 p.m. in front of the Boom na Boom Carnival grounds along Roxas Boulevard.

Vendors in the area told police that, before the shooting, they spotted the victim on his motorcycle with the suspect riding behind him.

The vendors were startled when they heard two shots. They turned and saw the bloodied victim falling to the ground and the suspect walking away from the scene.

Dela Cruz was reportedly last seen with PO2 Alberto Barangas, his fellow policeman, at Police Station 1.

Investigators were looking for Barangas in an effort to question him. But the policeman could not be found as of press time.

Authorities said the likely motive for the killing could be a "double-cross" related to money.

More about Ping Lacson

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

I'M overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from the public for the expose I made about former Philippine National Police (PNP) chief and now Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

I would like to thank Philippine Star columnist Teodoro "Teddyman" Benigno for that wonderful write-up in his column. To Sen. Franklin Drilon, thank you for calling me and offering your support in "whatever way."

I thank my relatives and friends for expressing their concern for my safety. I tell them—jokingly of course— that weeds are hard to kill. One friend with a macabre sense of humor said that I was a "dead man walking."

I thank the countless, faceless people I hardly know for calling me or greeting me in the streets to express their moral support.

***

Senator Lacson, expressing peeve when he was asked about the allegations in this space, said he would not make any comments

Why, Mr. Senator? Because you're afraid that more truths will come out about your real character?

Mr. Senator, please try to deny the following "facts" that I have uncovered about you:

● In 1975, you ordered the killing of the boyfriend of a ramp model whom you took a fancy to. The girl's name was Gina. She was working for Fanny Serrano, a well-known couturier. Gina was at the time modelling at Hyatt and Holiday Inn. The victim was Luisito Villacorta.

● You ordered a teenage boy rubbed out to please the parents of a girl, a student at the Far Eastern University, who were your friends. The victim was the girl's boyfriend. The girl's parents were against the relationship. You had the boy killed by some of your men at the Metrocom Intelligence and Security Group (MISG).

● You ordered the killing of Manila police Capt. Jimmy Victorino in 1986. Up until yesterday, when I watched the taped confession of your former hitman on a video compact disc, I had thought that then Western Police District (WPD) Supt. Alfredo Lim and Col. Juanito Lagasca were behind Victorino's assassination.

● You personally kicked two women, Magdalena Apostol, 33, and her niece, Carmelita Intal, 25, out of a helicopter which was flying over Manila Bay. The women's only crime was that they were the sister and niece, respectively, of Alfredo "Joey" de Leon, leader of a kidnap-for-ransom syndicate. The bodies of the two women were never found. This happened when you were chief of Task Force Habagat of the defunct Presidential Anti-Crime Commission.

● You ordered the execution of two girls, 19 and seven years old, when you were still at the MISG because they were witness to the "salvaging" by your men of a crime suspect. The 19-year-old girl was the crime suspect's girlfriend and the little girl was her sister. The crime suspect, his girlfriend and her sister, were at the Kobe Restaurant in Quezon City when your men came for him. The suspect was shot dead even while he allegedly had his arms raised in surrender. To cover up your men's execution of the crime suspect, you had the two innocent girls likewise "salvaged (summarily executed)." But their executions were done in another place.

***

I dare you, Mr. Senator, to deny all my allegations which are based on the confession of one of your former hitmen, Francisco "Kit" Mateo, a civilian agent at the notorious MISG.

Mateo died of cancer three months ago. Frail and emaciated, he made the confession at his sickbed. It was a confession of a dying man who regretted all the bad deeds he had done. Most of those misdeeds, Mateo said, were upon your orders.

I wonder why Mateo's confession was not shown at ABS-CBN. It would have been a big, big scoop. ABS-CBN reporter Ana Marie Fuderanan interviewed Mateo.

I wonder why the ABS-CBN management junked the Mateo interview. I would not be surprised if you were able to intimidate the big bosses at the country's biggest television network. You're notorious for that.

***

I understand that you threatened Ms Fuderanan with bodily harm. When she was unfazed by your threats, you made up a story about her—that she was trying to blackmail you and asking for a big amount.

You also said that the car she recently bought was given to her as a gift from alleged jueteng lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda. I know Bong Pineda very well, Your Honor. He doesn't give such an expensive gift to reporters.

You're a disgrace to your alma mater, the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), which claims to produce "officers and gentlemen."

Pati babae, pinapatulan mo.

***

I call on Lacson's colleagues in the Senate to investigate him on the allegations of Mateo.

The citizenry can stand stupid senators at the Senate. But it cannot stand a ruthless criminal among the honorable ranks of the Congress' upper chamber.

***

Mateo's dying wish was for Lacson to reform.

"*Harinawang magbago na siya. Mawala na ang dating gawain niya. Kundi siya magbabago, maraming kawawang taong dadaan sa kanya* (I hope he reforms. I hope he would not go back to his old ways. If he doesn't, many more will become his victims)," the former Lacson hitman said by way of closing the interview.

(Shortly before he died, Mateo recanted the statements he made in the interview with Fuderanan. The affidavit recanting the confession was presented by Lacson's men in a press conference.—Ed)

Tancangco broke rules, peers at Comelec claim

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

COMMISSIONER Luzviminda Tancangco could face sanctions for allegedly violating an internal rule on confidentiality when she divulged the contents of a draft decision on the petition to declare a failure of elections in Caloocan City.

Commissioner Rex Borra said Tancangco, the ponente for the en banc ruling on the Caloocan City case, could be cited for "premature announcement" and "revelation of confidential information" under the Comelec rules of procedures.

"She is just showing that she does not know the rules in the commission because the rule is, anything that is not yet promulgated is confidential and it will become official only when it is promulgated," Borra said.

"Her actions constitute serious misconduct and breach of public trust," Borra said.

Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo said Tancangco may have breached "ethical standards," but declined to elaborate on the possible sanctions.

Benipayo said the issue will have to be tackled by the seven-member en banc, which incidentally is split into two factions identified with him and Tancangco.

Rey Malonzo, Caloocan City officer-in-charge, on Tuesday threatened to file charges against Tancangco whom he accused of preempting the en banc decision on the petition filed by former Caloocan Rep. Luis "Baby"Asistio asking the Comelec to declare a failure of elections in the city due to alleged massive fraud and disenfranchisement.

Tancangco had announced on radio on Tuesday morning that the decision she penned favored the petition, saying there were strong grounds to declare a failure of elections in Caloocan City. Tancangco proposed that special elections be held again on August.

Borra said Malonzo may file charges against Tancangco for violation of Omnibus Election Code and the Revised Administrative Code even if Tancangco was impeachable, being a commissioner of a Constitutional body.

"Proper charges can be filed in court," Borra said. "She's impeachable but it does not mean that she cannot be charged for other offenses."

Borra, like Benipayo, did not specify what possible sanctions could be meted on Tancangco by the en banc. "There are sanctions," he merely said.

But Tancangco, in an unpublished interview on Tuesday, brushed aside threats by Malonzo to file charges against her. She should not be faulted since she was just answering the questions of the dzBB radio anchors.

"In the first place, who was the one who first disclosed that I am the ponente?" Tancangco said.

Without naming names, Tancangco apparently referred to Benipayo, who revealed in a news conference on mid-June that the Caloocan case had been raffled off to Tancangco. Tancangco said the identity of the ponente should not be revealed since this would subject the ponente under undue pressure from all sides.

"This should not have been discussed, but it's all over town," Tancangco complained.

Tancangco pointed out that while there was voting in Caloocan City on May 14 and in the special elections the next day, 290 clustered precincts failed to open due to confusion and delay in the distribution of election materials.

She said even in precincts where voting occurred, thousands of voters were disenfranchised because the precincts opened as late as 3 p.m.

As a result, Tancangco said as many as 70,000 registered voters failed to vote. She explained that the number was significant enough to materially affect the results of the elections. Re-electionist Mayor Rey Malonzo led challenger Macario "Boy" Asistio, a former mayor, by only 31,000 votes.

Teachers who served as election inspectors in the precincts had blamed Caloocan City treasurer Lourdes Jose who was nowhere to be found to distribute the election paraphernalia to the teachers hours before the precincts were supposed to open at 9 a.m.

Jose's absence prompted the city election officer to forcibly open the treasurer's office, causing a stampede as teachers rushed inside to get the election materials. The confusion resulted in the loss of several blank election returns which were later retrieved.

Voting in most precincts on May 14 started only at 11 a.m. as late as 3 p.m. Special elections were held the next day but the precincts also opened as late as 2 p.m. due to the delay in the delivery of election materials.

"There are legal requirements to be met (for the special elections on May 15) but the requirements have not been met," Tancangco said in an interview.

The draft resolution penned by Tancangco shall be passed around the other five commissioners for their concurrence or dissension, and lastly to Chair Alfredo Benipayo. Tancangco said the draft resolution was now with Commissioner Rex Borra.

"The ball is now in their court," Tancangco said. "As far as I am concerned, it's done."

Under Comelec rules, members of the en banc may concur or dissent with the draft resolution prepared by the ponente. If the draft was rejected by a majority in the en banc, the case shall be reraffled to a new ponente among the members of the majority.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, July 19, 2001
15th Week in Ordinary time

1st Reading: **Ex 3:13-20**
Gospel: **Mt 11:28-30**

Jesus spoke thus, "Come to me, all you who work hard and who carry heavy burdens and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble of heart; and you will find rest. For my yoke is good and my burden is light."

Commentary

As a rule people only start to listen seriously to the word of God when they have run out of other options and have hit rock bottom. These are the ones addressed in this wonderful passage. Jesus assumes that everyone has a yoke to carry. It is part of human existence. The nature of the yoke, however, makes all the difference. He did not come to abolish the Law but to bring it to perfection. Jesus invites all to share his yoke and to learn from him. The yoke that Jesus offers is the wisdom and the discipline of how to live in the presence of God in gentleness and humility.

Father, we thank you for the consolation you have given us in Jesus, your Son. Teach us to follow his example of gentleness and humility.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites:http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—Review of rape cases— In the review of rape cases, We consider as guiding principles the following: (1) to accuse a man of rape is easy, but it is difficult for the accused to disprove it, though he may be innocent; (2) since only two persons are usually involved in the crime of rape, the testimony of complainant should be scrutinized with great caution; and (3) the evidence for the prosecution must stand or fall on its own merit and not be allowed to draw strength from the weakness of the evidence for the defense. While it may be true that in a rape case the lone testimony of the victim could suffice to sustain a conviction, such testimony must meet the test of credibility, which means that the testimony should not only come from the mouth of a credible witness, it should likewise be credible and reasonable in itself, that is to say, candid, straightforward, and in accord with human experience. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, People v. Malacura, G.R. No. 129365, December 4, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

VALHANDUMON

OPERATION GREYHOUND

Jail operatives use canine sniffers in a determined search for illegal drugs and deadly weapons during 'Operation Greyhound' like this one conducted at the infirmary section of the Quezon City Jail.

Gases still threaten PUP

By Jerome Aning

NOXIOUS GASES allegedly seeping from the Pandacan oil depot have forced officials of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Sta. Mesa, Manila to suspend classes yesterday, even as a female student was reportedly hospitalized after she inhaled the fumes.

It was the second time PUP officials had to suspend classes in as many days. The officials learned that gaseous hydrocarbon has been leaking from the nearby Pandacan depot and has enveloped the campus and nearby residential areas.

Radio station dzMM yesterday reported that an unidentified female student began vomiting after she inhaled the noxious fumes and was taken to the hospital.

"We think that these noxious fumes posed a risk to the children's health, so we suspended classes," PUP president Dr. Ofelia Carague told reporters.

The PUP authorities have asked the depot administrators to do something about the leaks. But police have yet to take action on the case as no one has yet filed a formal complaint.

Card, phone thieves fall

TWO WOMEN were arrested for stealing almost P200,000 worth of cellular cards and a mobile phone inside the National Bookstore at the plush Shangri-La Plaza mall in Mandaluyong City.

Police believe that Myra dela Peña, 37, and Beth Mabulawy, 35, are members of a gang of shoplifters operating in big malls.

Dela Peña of Manggahan Street, Fairview, Quezon City, and Mabulawy, of Singkamas Street, Makati City, hit the Shangri-La branch of National Bookstore, about 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, police said.

Alma Dupal, National Bookstore promotions manager, told police at least 13 other thieves entered the bookstore at around the same time as Dela Peña and Mabulawy, but they positioned themselves in different parts of the store to avoid getting the attention of sales clerks and security guards.

The suspects pretended to be customers and kept the sales clerks busy by making non-stop inquiries, while De la Peña and Mabulawy helped themselves to the unattended cellular cards and phone on display, police said.

School disowns extortionist

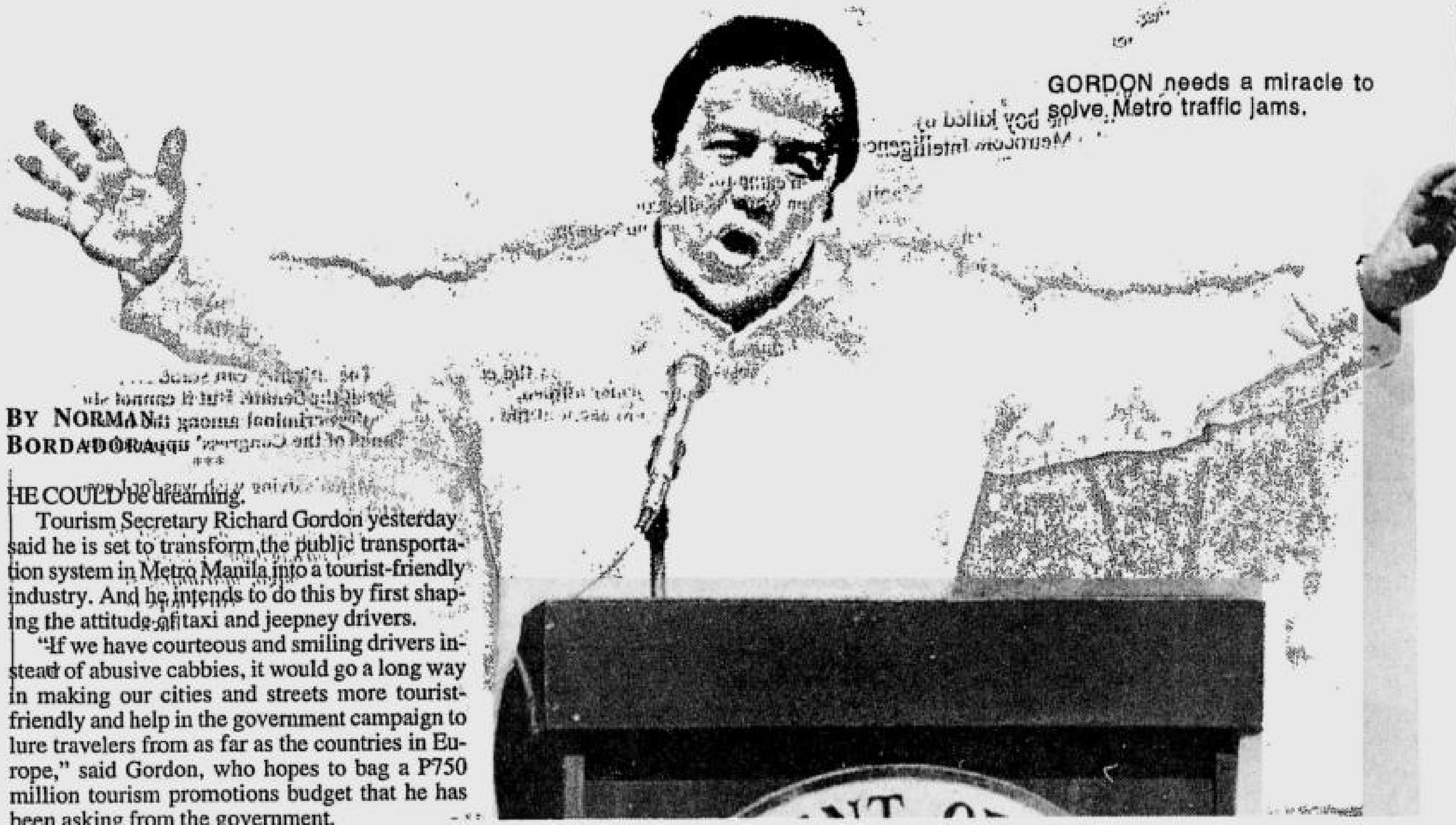
OFFICIALS of the Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC) at the Rizal Technological University in Mandaluyong City yesterday denied any connection with a man arrested last week for allegedly extorting money from students in exchange for exemptions from ROTC.

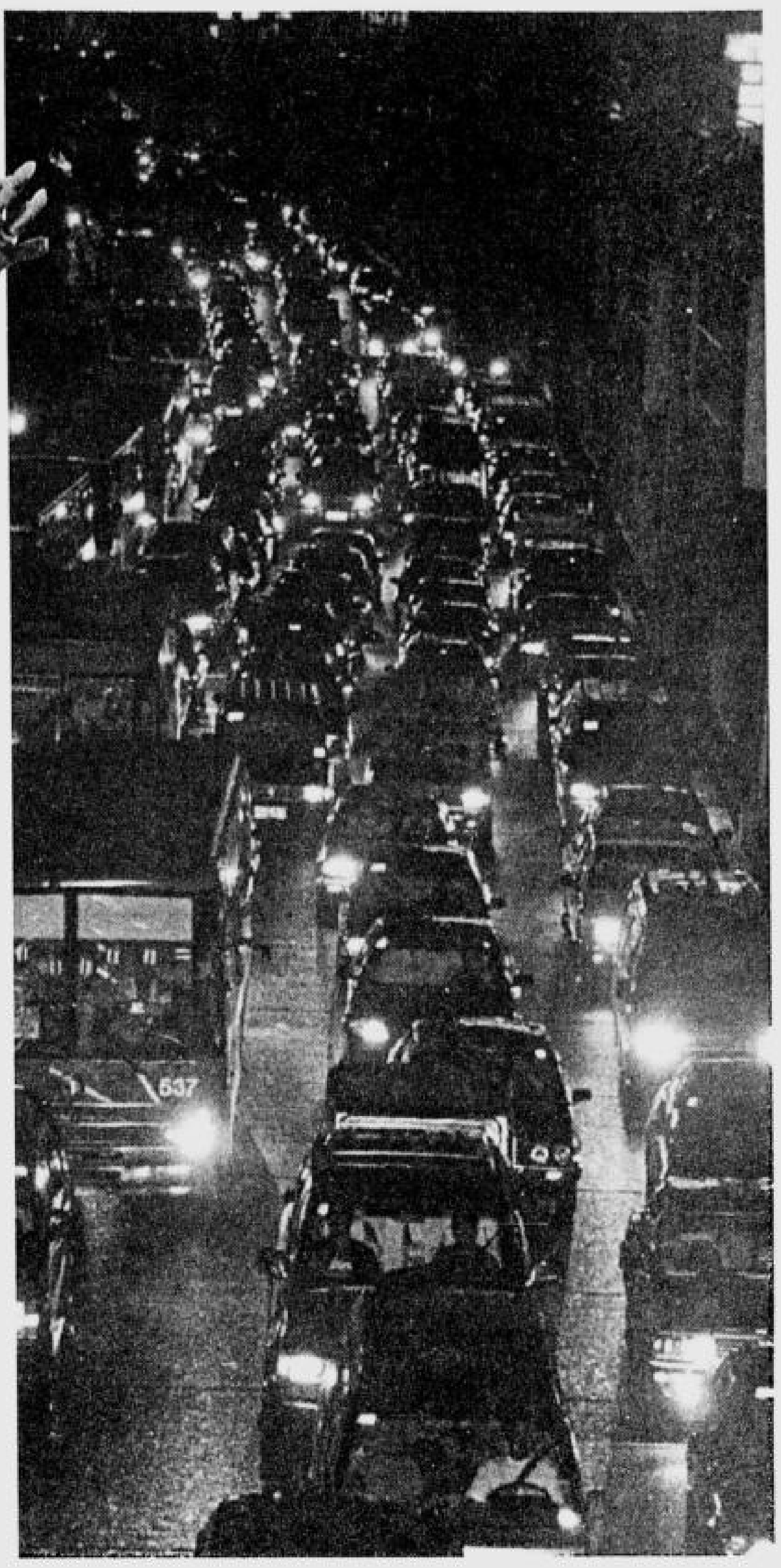
Master Sgt. Marcelino Galvez, one of the two enlisted men assigned at RTU, claimed that suspect Lauro Dulawan, 23, was a former student of Arellano University in Manila and had never been connected with RTU.

But Galvez disclosed that students had seen Dulawan frequenting the RTU grounds before Pasig policemen arrested him during an entrapment operation.

Agnes Donato

Tourism boss tries the impossible





GORDON needs a miracle to solve Metro traffic jams.

By NORMAN BORDADORA

HE COULD be dreaming.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon yesterday said he is set to transform the public transportation system in Metro Manila into a tourist-friendly industry. And he intends to do this by first shaping the attitude of taxi and jeepney drivers.

"If we have courteous and smiling drivers instead of abusive cabbies, it would go a long way in making our cities and streets more tourist-friendly and help in the government campaign to lure travelers from as far as the countries in Europe," said Gordon, who hopes to bag a P750 million tourism promotions budget that he has been asking from the government.

A recent finding by the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) showed that eight out of 10 apprehended traffic violators were ignorant of traffic rules and regulations.

Earlier, MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said that lack of road courtesy and knowledge of traffic rules among drivers are the primary causes of traffic quarrels that often end in violence, if not the death of the driver involved or of an innocent commuter.

Abalos also observed that "Filipino drivers are the most uneducated and discourteous in the world."

While still chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, Gordon was successful in implementing a campaign that instilled discipline among motorists there.

He said he hopes to do the same in Metro Manila.

"Taxi and jeepney drivers are representatives of the Filipino people when they come face to face with tourists. Their decorum would reflect so much on the Filipino character that they may either make or break the country's appeal to tourists," Gordon explained.

"We have to make them understand that if there were more tourists, they would have more income. They may even get dollars and other foreign currencies in tips."

Gordon is set to meet this week with officials of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board to discuss ways on how to improve driver courtesy and appearance.

Reviving Old Manila is do-able, but reshaping the Pinoy driver is a totally different challenge

He would meet initially with LTFRB chair Dante Lantin regarding taxi drivers and how they could help promote the country's tourism industry. Their discussions could include plans of color-coding the taxicabs and the drivers' uniforms.

"When the drivers believe that what they would be doing would mean more income for them, I don't think there would be any problem," he said.

Earlier, Gordon revealed plans to mold cab drivers into honest, efficient and courteous tourism workers. The campaign, he said, would also involve several government agencies.

Improved traffic conditions and road courtesy would help bolster the country's tourism industry, said Gordon.

Among Gordon's plans to bolster tourism is his campaign to revitalize Old Manila, particularly the Malate area, into one of the best and brightest cities in the world.

That could be done with a lot of hard work and dedication.

Reshaping the Filipino driver and his habits is, of course, a totally different challenge.

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- All Lee Kum Kee products sold in the Philippines have complied not only with the UK FSA/EU and the Philippine Food Standards Guideline, but meet and even exceed regulatory standards around the world.
- The media has omitted to refer to Annex 1 of the UK FSA report stating that *"Lee Kum Kee (LKK) has succeeded in eliminating any traceable level of 3-MCPD in its products produced from October 1999."*

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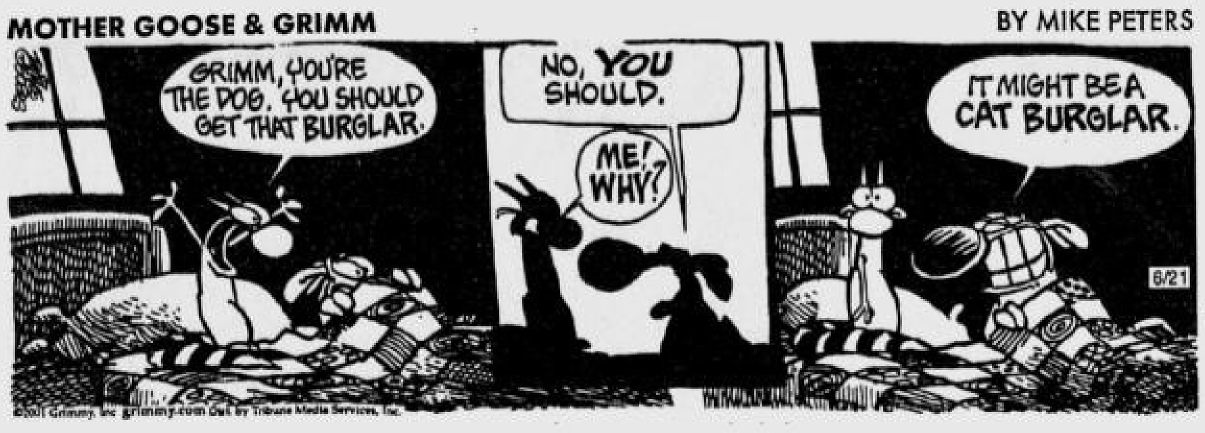
李錦記
LEE KUM KEE

COMIC Relief

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


GRIMM, YOU'RE THE DOG. YOU SHOULD GET THAT BURGLAR.
NO, YOU SHOULD.
ME! WHY?
IT MIGHT BE A CAT BURGLAR.
6/21
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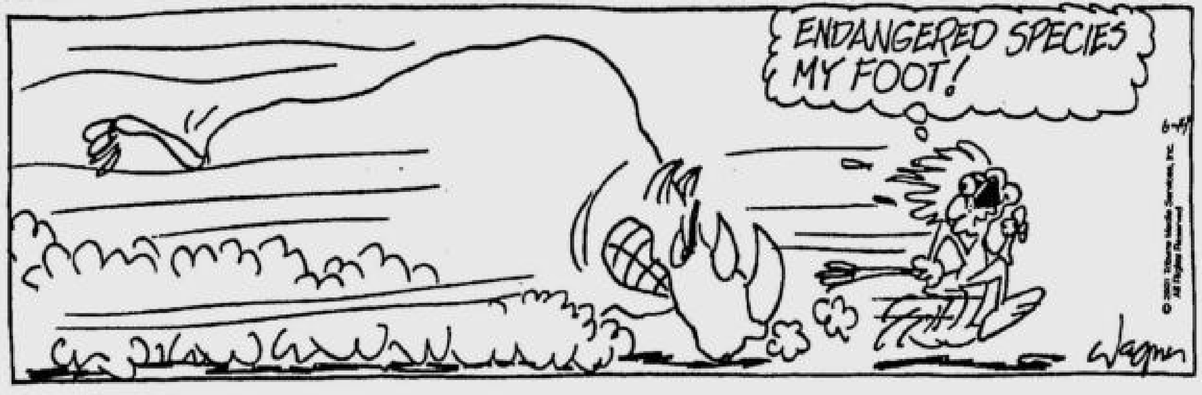
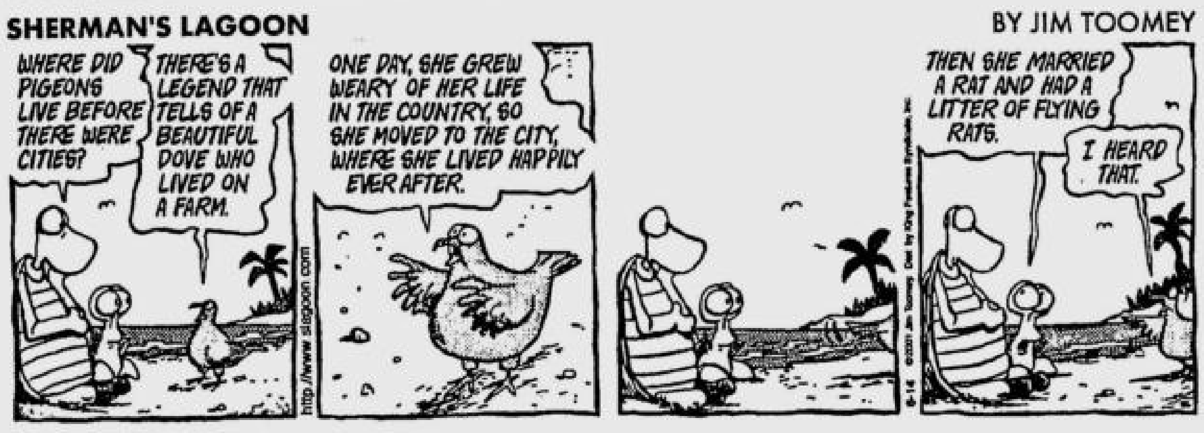
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


ENDANGERED SPECIES MY FOOT!
Wagner

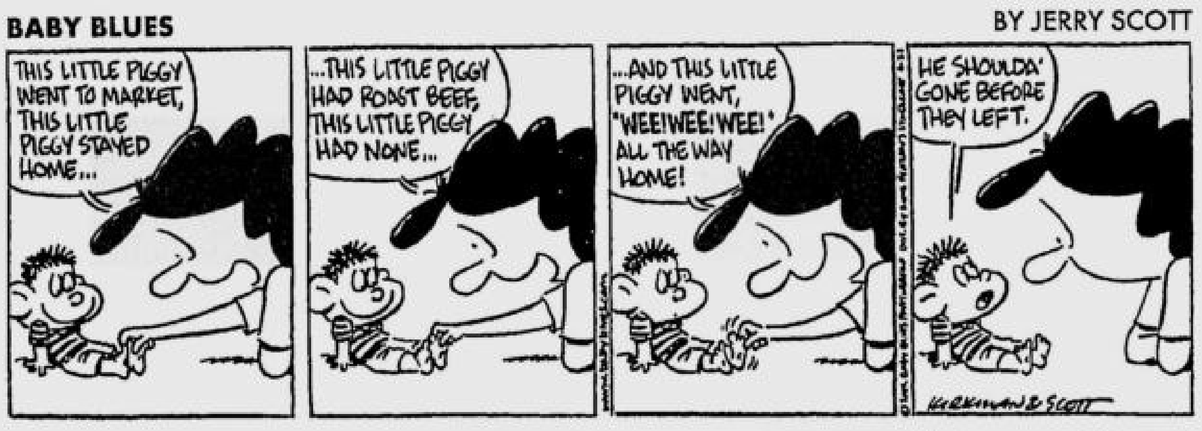
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WHERE DID PIGEONS LIVE BEFORE THERE WERE CITIES?
THERE'S A LEGEND THAT TELLS OF A BEAUTIFUL DOVE WHO LIVED ON A FARM.
ONE DAY, SHE GREW WEARY OF HER LIFE IN THE COUNTRY, SO SHE MOVED TO THE CITY, WHERE SHE LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
THEN SHE MARRIED A RAT AND HAD A LITTER OF FLYING RATS.
I HEARD THAT.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


THIS LITTLE PIGGY WENT TO MARKET, THIS LITTLE PIGGY STAYED HOME...
...THIS LITTLE PIGGY HAD ROAST BEEF, THIS LITTLE PIGGY HAD NONE...
...AND THIS LITTLE PIGGY WENT, "WEE! WEE! WEE!" ALL THE WAY HOME!
HE SHOULDA' GONE BEFORE THEY LEFT.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Anthony Edwards, Atom Egoyan, Pat Hingle, Rosey Grier, Campbell Scott

Happy Birthday: Develop your creative talents this year by signing up for courses that will help you expand skills and knowledge you already have. You will gain the greatest satisfaction from the things you create. Don't let emotions stand in the way of making good decisions regarding your direction. Your numbers: 7, 19, 27, 33, 38, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Family just won't understand. You can't waste your time trying to get others to see your point of view. Do your own thing and don't worry so much about what everyone else is thinking.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your ability to communicate forcefully will be extremely attractive to potential personal partners. Do not hesitate to get your point across or let others know what your needs are.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may make the wrong choices if you try to close a financial deal today. Take the time to have the documents checked by someone you trust.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your emotions have been hard to control. It is easy for others to misread you. You must pay close attention to the problems facing your partner.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Problems with skin, bones or teeth will plague you if you haven't been taking proper care of yourself. Don't delay: Go to your physician or dentist and address the source of the discomfort.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Use your charm to get your own way. Romantic opportunities will be plentiful in intellectual groups. You will be pleased with any cosmetic changes you make.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't forget your lover. Deception and arguments will develop if you do. Be accommodating. A night out on the town should keep the relationship harmonious.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): New beliefs will lead to a better attitude. Try to be open with others, but don't force your ideas on them. Immerse yourself in literature that will help develop your awareness and feelings.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Check out options regarding home repairs. You need to make some changes to stabilize your personal situation. Residential moves will help ease the tension.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't expect your business partner to be completely open regarding new clients or investments. Look into all the angles yourself and don't sign any papers based on trust alone.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your increased energy will allow you to accomplish whatever you decide. Don't be afraid to help those that work under you. You'll gain their respect and assistance in return.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Become involved in activities that will enhance your reputation and bring you in contact with individuals of importance. Strive to the best of your ability to reach your goals.

Birthday Baby: You were born with good fortune. Plenty of opportunities will come your way, due to your caring nature and your questioning mind. You have a need to protect and nurture loved ones.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

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52			■	53					■	■	54			
55			56				■	57	58	59				
60							■	61						
62							■	63						

By Sheryl Scott
Akron, OH

6/2/01

ACROSS
1 Ends of the Earth?
8 __ and Nevis
15 Tropical malady
16 Blight on the landscape
17 Co-conspirator
18 Glover of "The River's Edge"
19 Contributed
20 Haughty
22 Barbie's guy
23 One of the Gershwins
24 Philosopher Langer
26 Fruity cooler
27 Real profit
28 Properly arranged
29 Kitty
30 Infinite time
32 "__ She Sweet"
33 Spanish American estates
37 Summit
40 Wrestles
44 Scottish cap
45 Property holding
48 Logger's tool
49 Goddess of criminal folly
50 Maker
51 Heflin or Johnson
52 Sportscaster Berman
53 Name
54 Sub shop
55 Of the past
57 Pirate Clemente
60 Places for aces?
61 "Lou Grant" star
62 Most melancholy
63 Negaters

DOWN
1 John Lennon classic
2 Nightclub
3 Lift
4 Actress Blanchett
5 Gallery draw
6 Bakery purchase
7 Site of the Circus Hall of Fame
8 Place position
9 Actor Power
10 Actor Sutherland
11 NASA outpost
12 Palace in Istanbul
13 Checked the fit of
14 Keystone Kops filmmaker
21 Glottal
24 Moral misdeeds
25 Component piece
31 Reed or Harrison
32 Egyptian viper
34 Scarred like the moon
35 Villain in "Othello"
36 Copycat
37 Perplexed
38 Knee bone
39 Edited
41 Shirley's roommate
42 Praise singer
43 Graduation VIPs
45 Functioning
46 Illegal activities
47 Examine once again
54 Lucy's partner in comedy
56 Knight or Kennedy
58 Pindar piece
59 Prohibit

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

B	E	T	A	■	R	A	N	O	N	■	E	L	E	M
E	C	R	U	■	E	V	E	R	T	■	R	A	G	A
L	O	O	K	T	H	E	O	T	H	E	R	W	A	Y
A	N	N	■	E	A	R	N	S	■	R	O	N	D	O
■	■	■	I	S	S	■	■	■	A	I	R	■	■	■
B	E	O	N	T	H	E	S	A	F	E	S	I	D	E
L	A	R	N	E	■	L	E	N	T	■	■	N	I	A
E	R	A	S	E	■	I	N	D	■	S	P	E	N	T
A	L	T	■	■	S	H	O	E	■	P	U	R	G	E
K	E	E	P	Y	O	U	R	S	H	I	R	T	O	N
■	■	■	R	O	W	■	■	■	O	N	E	■	■	■
R	A	T	E	D	■	L	U	C	R	E	■	W	A	S
S	P	R	E	A	D	I	T	O	N	T	H	I	C	K
V	E	I	N	■	I	R	E	N	E	■	A	L	M	A
P	R	O	S	■	E	A	S	E	D	■	M	E	E	T

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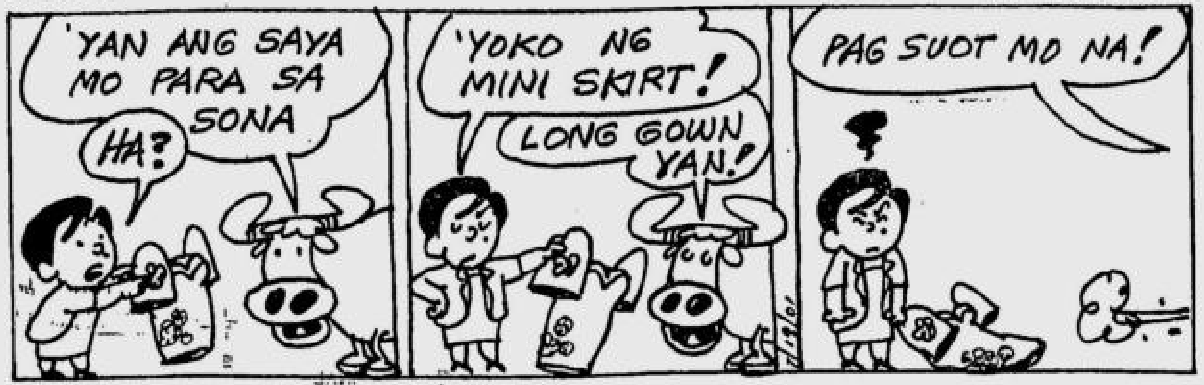
6/2/01

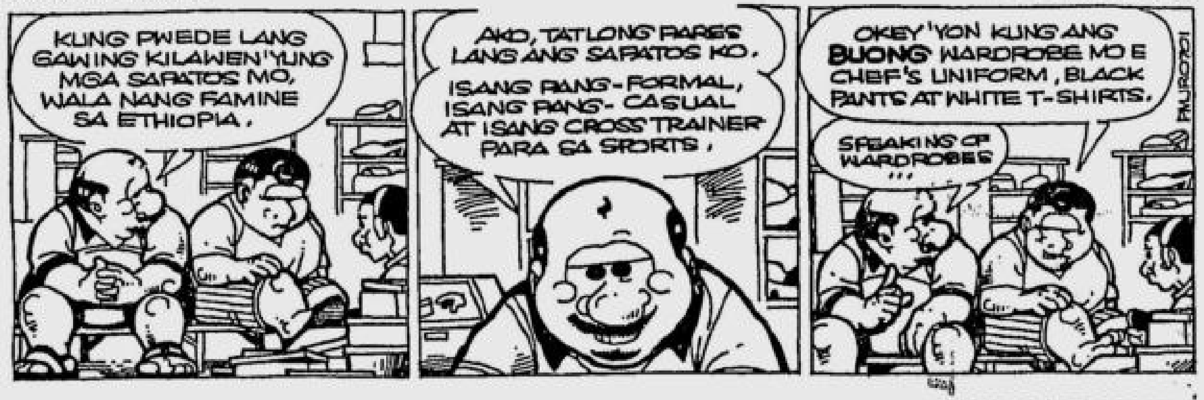
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


'YAN ANG SAYA MO PARA SA SONA
HA?
'YOKO NG MINI SKIRT!
LONG GOWN YAN!
PAG SUOT MO NA!

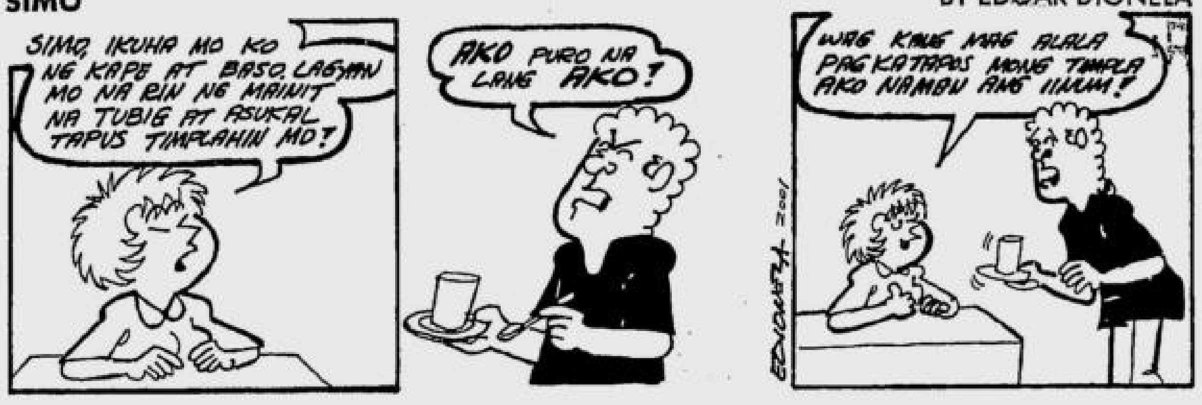
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


KUNG PWEDE LANG GAWING KILAWEN 'YUNG MGA SAPATOS MO, WALA NANG FAMINE SA ETHIOPIA.
AKO, TATLONG PARES LANG ANG SAPATOS KO. ISANG PANG-FORMAL, ISANG PANG-CASUAL AT ISANG CROSS TRAINER PARA SA SPORTS.
OKEY 'YON KUNG ANG BUONG WARDROBE MO E CHEF'S UNIFORM, BLACK PANTS AT WHITE T-SHIRTS.
SPEAKING OF WARDROBES...
PMJR2001

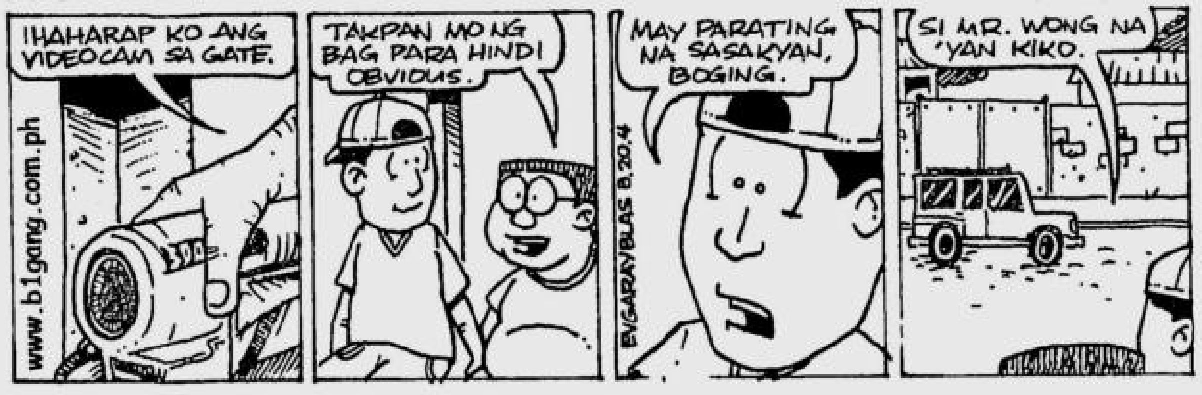
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


SIMO, IKUHA MO KO NG KAPE AT BASO. LAGYAN MO NA RIN NG MAINIT NA TUBIG AT ASUKAL TAPUS TIMPLAHIN MO!
AKO PURO NA LANG AKO!
WAG KANG MAG ALALA PAG KATAPOS MONG TIMPLA AKO NAMAN ANG IIINUM!
EDIONELA 2001

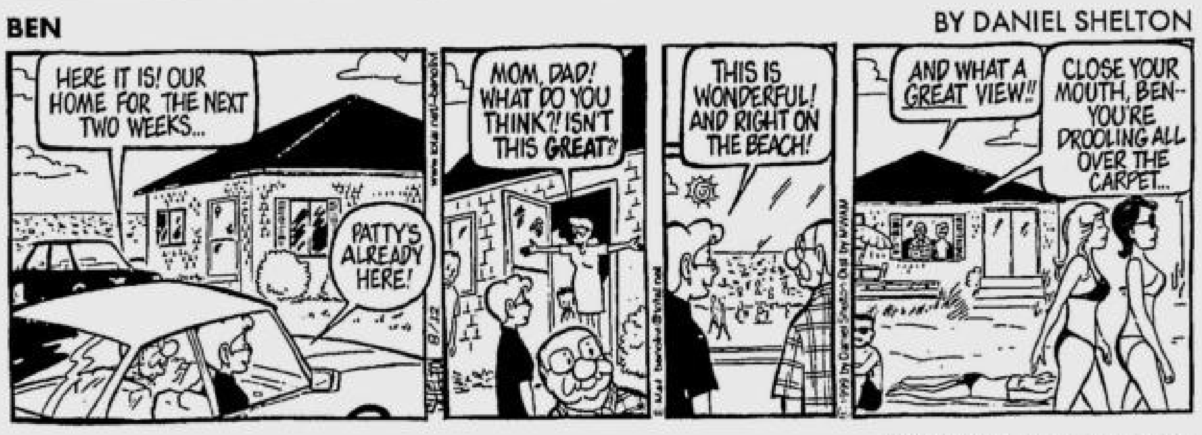
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


IHAHARAP KO ANG VIDEOCAM SA GATE.
TAKPAN MO NG BAG PARA HINDI OBVIOUS.
MAY PARATING NA SASAKYAN, BOGING.
SI MR. WONG NA 'YAN KIKO.
www.b1gang.com.ph
EVGARAYBLAS 8.20.4

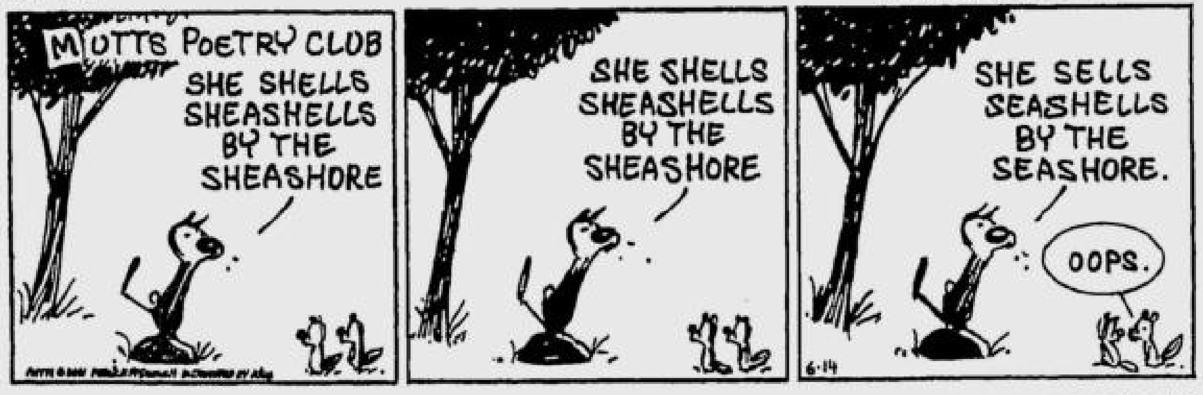
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HERE IT IS! OUR HOME FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS...
PATTY'S ALREADY HERE!
MOM, DAD! WHAT DO YOU THINK?! ISN'T THIS GREAT?
THIS IS WONDERFUL! AND RIGHT ON THE BEACH!
AND WHAT A GREAT VIEW!!
CLOSE YOUR MOUTH, BEN-- YOU'RE DROOLING ALL OVER THE CARPET...

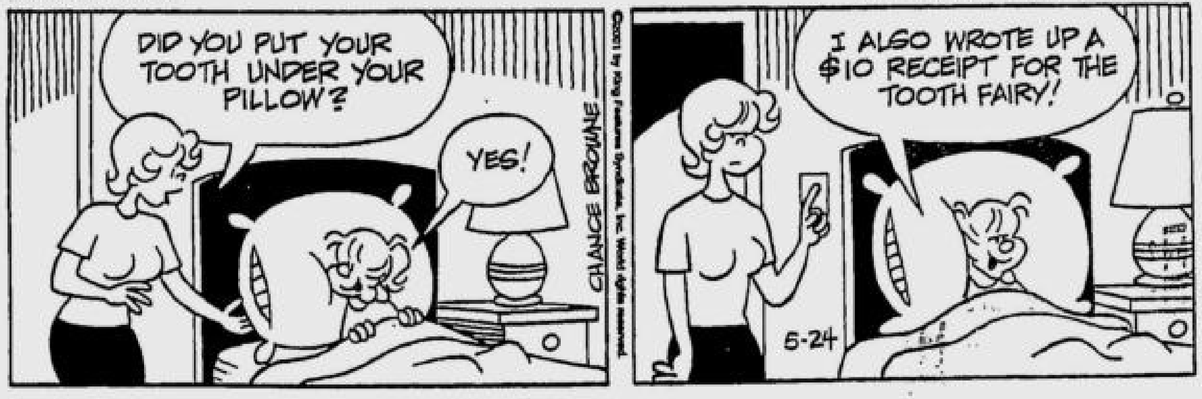
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MUTTS POETRY CLUB
SHE SHELLS SHEASHELLS BY THE SHEASHORE
SHE SHELLS SHEASHELLS BY THE SHEASHORE
SHE SELLS SEASHELLS BY THE SEASHORE.
OOPS.
6·14

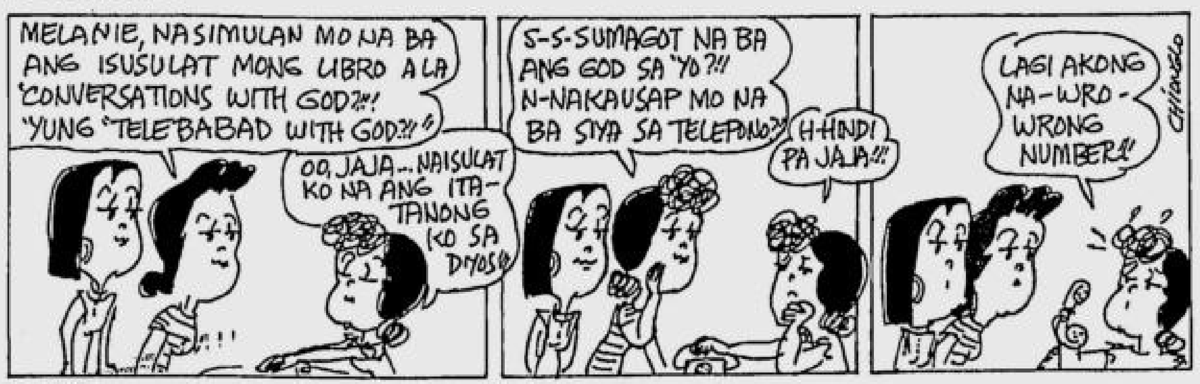
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


DID YOU PUT YOUR TOOTH UNDER YOUR PILLOW?
YES!
CHANCE BROWNE
I ALSO WROTE UP A $10 RECEIPT FOR THE TOOTH FAIRY!
5-24

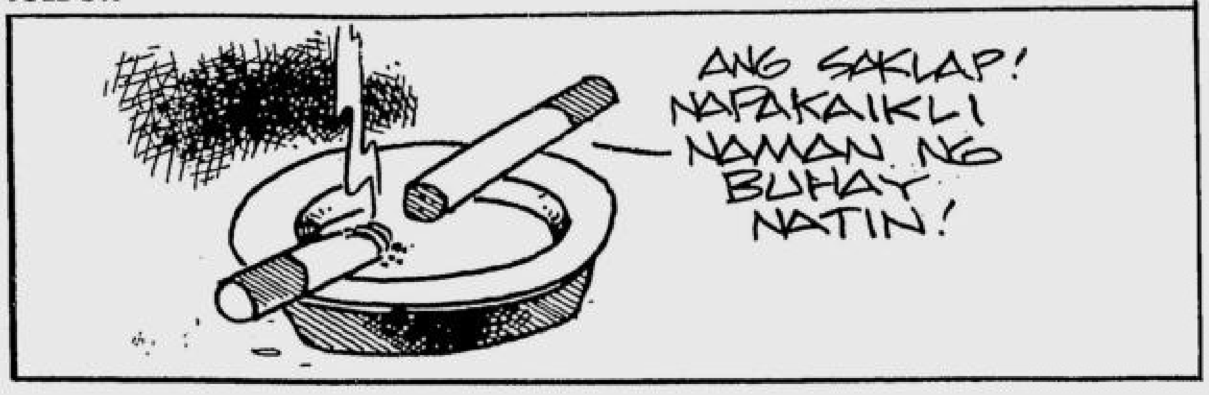
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MELANIE, NASIMULAN MO NA BA ANG ISUSULAT MONG LIBRO A LA 'CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD?!' 'YUNG "TELE"BABAD WITH GOD?!!
OO, JAJA... NAISULAT KO NA ANG ITATANONG KO SA DIYOS!
S-S-SUMAGOT NA BA ANG GOD SA 'YO?!! N-NAKAUSAP MO NA BA SIYA SA TELEPONO?!
H-HINDI PA JAJA!!
LAGI AKONG NA-WRO-WRONG NUMBER!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


ANG SAKLAP! NAPAKAIKLI NAMAN NG BUHAY NATIN!

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

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1	TOMB RAIDER
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3	DR. DO LITTLE 2
4	TOM CATS
5	FINAL FANTASY
6	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
7	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
8	MAHAL KITA...

CENTERPOINT 7149512-7161416

1	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
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3	TOM CATS
4	COMMAND & CONQUER
5	FINAL FANTASY
6	TOMB RAIDER
7	DR. DO LITTLE 2
8	SWORD FISH
9	MAHAL KITA...
10	PARU-PARONG LIGAW

CITY FAIRVIEW 9359749

1	COMMAND & CONQUER
2	SWORD FISH
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4	FINAL FANTASY
5	TOM CATS
6	DR. DO LITTLE 2
7	TOMB RAIDER
8	MAHAL KITA...
9	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
10	DRIVEN
11	DUNGEONS & DRAGON
12	PARU-PARONG LIGAW

CITY MANILA 5236240

1	TOM CATS
2	DR. DO LITTLE 2
3	DRIVEN
4	FINAL FANTASY
5	SWORD FISH
6	TOMB RAIDER
7	ATLANTIS
8	COMMAND & CONQUER
9	MAHAL KITA...
10	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
11	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
12	PANGAKO IKAW LANG

MEGAMALL 6331931 • 6329401

1	TOMB RAIDER
2	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
3	SWORD FISH
4	TOM CATS
5	DR. DO LITTLE 2
6	COMMAND & CONQUER
7	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
8	DRIVEN
9	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
10	FINAL FANTASY
11	MAHAL KITA..
12	ATLANTIS

TUTUBAN 2514202

1	FINAL FANTASY
2	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
3	MAHAL KITA...
4	PARU-PARONG LIGAW

CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	MAHAL KITA...
2	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
3	DR. DO LITTLE 2
4	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
5	COMMAND & CONQUER
6	TOM CATS
7	SWORD FISH
8	FINAL FANTASY
9	AMORSEKO
10	DRIVEN
11	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
12	TOMB RAIDER

SOUTHMALL 8066188 • 8066182

1	COMMAND & CONQUER
2	MAHAL KITA...
3	DR. DO LITTLE 2
4	TOM CATS
5	SWORD FISH
6	TOMB RAIDER
7	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
8	FINAL FANTASY
9	DRIVEN
10	PARU-PARONG LIGAW

GUADALUPE COMM'L 8820905

1	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
2	MAHAL KITA...
3	LABRADOR

CEBU 2313616

1	FINAL FANTASY
2	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
3	DR. T AND THE WOMEN
4	DR. DO LITTLE 2
5	ACCIDENTAL SPY
6	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
7	ANGEL EYES

ILOILO 3209422

1	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
2	CLOSED
3	DR. T AND THE WOMEN
4	ACCIDENTAL SPY
5	DR. DO LITTLE 2
6	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
7	CLOSED
8	PANINDA

PAMPANGA 7128015

1	FINAL FANTASY
2	ATLANTIS
3	ONE NOGHT AT MC COOLS
4	TOMB RAIDER
5	MAHAL KITA...
6	PANGAKO IKAW LANG

SUCAT 8294935

1	MAHAL KITA...
2	FINAL FANTASY
3	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
4	PANGAKO IKAW LANG

DAVAO

1
2
3
4
5
6

SOON TO OPEN
6 STATE-OF-THE-ART
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1	DRIVEN
2	DR. DO LITTLE 2
3	MAHAL KITA... KAHIT SINO KA PA
4	PANGAKO IKAW LANG

GLORIETTA 4

1	TOM CATS	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	SWORD FISH	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	FINAL FANTASY THX	In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	RIDE WITH THE DEVIL (Phil. Premiere) Art Film	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	DR. DO LITTLE 2	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	PANGAKO IKAW LANG	In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	ALONG CAME A SPIDER	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	TOM CATS	In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	FINAL FANTASY	In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	ALONG CAME A SPIDER	In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MARTIN NIEVERA LIVE! JULY 20 & 21 - 9 pm Onstage	

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	FINAL FANTASY THX	In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	TOM CATS	In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	DR. DO LITTLE 2	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	PANGAKO IKAW LANG	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	ALONG CAME A SPIDER	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

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Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (SDDS)	FINAL FANTASY
2 (SDDS)	ATLANTIS
3 (DTS)	DR. DO LITTLE 2
4 GOLD (DTS)	SWORD FISH
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	TOM CATS
6 GOLD (SDDS)	TOMB RAIDER
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
8	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
9	MAHAL KITA...
10	DRIVEN

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	MAHAL KITA...
2	
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	AMORSEKO
6 (DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	
2 (DTS)	MAHAL KITA...
3	PARU-PARONG LIGAW

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	MAHAL KITA...
2	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
3	AMORSEKO

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
2	MAHAL KITA...
3	COMMAND & CONQUER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	FINAL FANTASY
5	PARU-PARONG LIGAW

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	MAHAL KITA...
4	AMORSEKO
5	COMMAND & CONQUER
6	FINAL FANTASY
7	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
8	PARU-PARONG LIGAW

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010/892.3349

1	HEAD OVER HEELS

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
2	TOMB RAIDER

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	SEXSUAL MALICE
2	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
3	MAHAL KITA...

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	MAHAL KITA...
A	PARU-PARONG LIGAW

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	MAHAL KITA...
2	THE LOVER
3	AMORSEKO
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	MAHAL KITA...
2	AMORSEKO
3	DRIVEN
4	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
5	COMMAND & CONQUER
6	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
7 (DTS)	DR. DO LITTLE 2
8 (SDDS)	TOM CATS
9 (DOLBY)	FINAL FANTASY

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	MAHAL KITA...

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	MAHAL KITA...
3	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
4 (SDDS)	TOM CATS
5	COMMAND & CONQUER
6 (DOLBY)	FINAL FANTASY
7 (DTS)	DR. DO LITTLE 2
8	AMORSEKO
9	DRIVEN

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	DRIVEN
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3	COMMAND & CONQUER
4	MAHAL KITA...
5 (SDDS)	FINAL FANTASY
6	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
7 (DOLBY)	TOM CATS
8	AMORSEKO

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	MAHAL KITA...
3 (DTS)	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
4	TOM CATS
5 (SDDS)	COMMAND & CONQUER

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	MAHAL KITA

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	MAHAL KITA..

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson
Lords
Jennet

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
2	MAHAL KITA...
3	RESERVE
4	TOM CATS

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	MAHAL KITA..

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	FINAL FANTASY
2	MAHAL KITA...
3	TOM CATS
4	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
5	PARU-PARONG LIGAW

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	MAHAL KITA...
2	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
3	COMMAND & CONQUER
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	TEASER

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	MAHAL KITA...
2	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
3	AMORSEKO

Berma
tel 879-2029 or 30

1	MAHAL KITA...
2	PARU-PARONG LIGAW

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	
2	PARU-PARONG IGAW
3	MAHAL KITA...
4	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	MAHAL KITA...
2	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
3 (DTS)	SWORD FISH

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	MAHAL KITA...
2 (DTS)	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
3 (DOLBY)	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
4	PARU-PARONG LIGAW

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
2 (DOLBY)	SWORD FISH
3 (DTS)	MAHAL KITA...
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	REPLICANT
2	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	MAHAL KITA...
2	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
3	TEASER
4 (DTS)	AMORSEKO

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
2	MAHAL KITA...
3 (DTS)	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
4	AMORSEKO
5	ONSEHAN

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	MAHAL KITA...
2	ALONG CAME SPIDER
3	PARU-PARONG LIGAW

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	MAHAL KITA...
2	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
3	AMORSEKO

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	ONE NIGHT IN MC COOL
2	FINAL FANTASY
3	KASIBULAN

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
2	MAHAL KITA...
3	AMORSEKO

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	MAHAL KITA...
2 (DTS)	AMORSEKO

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	MAHAL KITA...

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	AMORSEKO
2	MAHALKITA...
3	ONSEHAN

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
2	HEAD OVER HEELS
3	ATLANTIS
4	AMORSEKO

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	ATLANTIS
2	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
3	PANINDA
4 (DTS ES)	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

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4	DRIVEN
5	TOM CATS
6	SWORD FISH
7	TOMB RAIDER
8	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
9	MAHAL KITA...
10	ALONG CAME A SPIDER

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1	TOM CATS
2	DRIVEN
3	DR. DO LITTLE
4	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
5	MAHAL KITA...
6	COMMAND & CONQUER
7	FINAL FANTASY

IMUS (046) 471-8189

1	DRIVEN
2	MAHAL KITA...
3	PARU PARONG LIGAW
4	FINAL FANTASY
5	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
6	TOM CATS

NOVALICHES 938-7243

1	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
2	SOON TO OPEN
3	PARU PARONG LIGAW
4	SWORD FISH
5	DRIVEN
6	MAHAL KITA...
7	FINAL FANTASY
8	DR. DO LITTLE

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453

1	ATLANTIS
2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
3	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
4	SWORD FISH
5	TOMB RAIDER
6	EVOLUTION

SOON TO OPEN

METRO EAST
ILOILO
SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA

THX DOLBY DIGITAL DOLBY STEREO dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MAHAL KITA...
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	DR. DO LITTLE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	FINAL FANTASY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SWORD FISH
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	TOMB RAIDER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	TOM CATS
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	MAHAL KITA...
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	GIGIL / TEACHER'S WIFE
ODEON	MAHAL KITA...
ODEON-2	COMMAND & CONQUER
ROBEN	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
TANDEM-1	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
TANDEM-2	PANINDA
TIMES	15 MIUTES / ATTACK FORCE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	MAHAL KITA...
QUEZON-1	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
REMAR	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
REMAR-2	MAHAL KITA...
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	TOM CATS
CINEMA-2	DR. DO LITTLE 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MILA
CINEMA-2	AMORSEKO
CINEMA-3	COMMAND & CONQUER
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SWORD FISH
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-6	PARO PARONG LIGAW
CINEMA-7	ATLANTIS
CINEMA-8	TEASER
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	DR. DO LITTLE 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOM CATS
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	FINAL FANTASY
CINEMA-12	DRIVEN
CINEMA-14	MAHAL KITA...
CINEMA-15	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	DRIVEN
CINEMA-2	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
CINEMA-3	DR. DO LITTLE 2
CINEMA-4	FINAL FANTASY
CINEMA-5	TOM CATS
CINEMA-6	SWORD FISH
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	TOROTOT
CINEMA-2	BATANG MAGDALENA
CINEMA-4	KAKAIBANG KARISMA
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	SPOT
CINEMA-2	MOLATA
CINEMA-4	COLLEGE GIRL

Movie about high-stakes pool game

"STICKMEN" is a movie about a stake game of pub pool that sees the protagonists touring the dark underbelly of Wellington's pub scene.

Thomas (Paolo Rotodno), Jack (Robbie Macasiva) and Wayne (Scott Wills) are the best of mates. Together they're the Stickmen.

Each of them lives their life the way they play pool.

Thomas is either "on" or "off." His game can be one of two things, absolutely brilliant or crap.

Jack is always slick, cool and forever setting up the next shot.

Wayne bumbles way through life, happy to be the guy that always says the wrong thing at the wrong time.

During the high stakes pool tournament, they must face a weird and wonderful collection of players which include bikers, priests, waiters, waitresses, bankers, dock-hands.

All are standing in their way of winning the big cash prize.

Unknown to them, a hook-handed crime lord pulls the strings. His bad guys hatch dirty tricks to topple the Stickmen in every tournament.

"Stickmen" is produced by Stick Films and distributed locally by Giant Pictures. The movie is written by Nick Ward and directed by Hammish Rockwell.

Freestyle at Nth Degree

NTH Degree Bar, the hip place in Malate, offers a formidable lineup this month.

Freestyle gives a special show tonight, sponsored by Remy Silver, Maxxium Philippines, Tabasco and Getz Brothers.

Nth Degree regular acts continue to wow the crowd. First Street sings on Mondays, when the venue offers free entrance and all-night happy hour.

Mojofly and Moonstar88 alternate on Tuesdays.

Mulatto performs on Wednesdays. K24/7 with Shar and Elements take centerstage Fridays.

Rave and Appalooza are the Saturday attractions. Show time is 9:30 p.m.

Nth Degree also offers a special promo with its billiard hall. From noon to 4 p.m., there's a 50-percent discount on games, food and drinks. From 4 to 8 p.m., there's a 50-percent off on billiard games.

Nth Degree is at 1547 Adriatico st., Malate, Manila.

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HEAD OVER HEELS
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Monica Potter
Sarah O'Hare
Shalom Harlow
Tomico Fraser

July 19 - Thursday
6:00 PM - Head Over Heels
8:15 PM - Head Over Heels
10:30 PM - Head OVER Heels

Jurasic Park III
opens Wednesday
July 25

Hear the Difference, Feel the Excitement

ENTERTAINMENT

Louie C. Camino, Editor

MURPHY'S BACK. As the kindhearted man who talks to animals in "Dr. Dolittle."

More like a sitcom episode than a feature film

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

DR. Dolittle, the kindhearted man who talks to animals, made so much money with his first movie that he's back with another film, "Dr. Dolittle, 2," with his furry friends. This time around, he is asked to help save a forest preserve from some evil developers by securing a partner for the lone female bear on the primeval premises.

Trouble is, the prospective hubby Dr. Dolittle finds is a circus bear who was born and raised in captivity, and thus has absolutely no interest in the great outdoors. As for chasing after salmon swimming upstream, Mr. Circus Bear would much rather buy a can of the stuff at the supermarket, thanks.

So, Dolittle's bear is less than cooperative, and the good doctor soon feels like throwing in the towel and letting those avaricious developers do their worst.

Luckily, the male bear is smitten by the female, so Dolittle uses this to his advantage, to motivate the bear to adapt to the ways of the wild.

Despite all of his frantic efforts, however, Dolittle is unable to defend the forest preserve—until he hits open the bright idea of convincing all of his animal friends to go on strike.

Horses at the racetracks refuse to race. Cows balk at producing milk. Pigeons dive-bomb the movie's villains with poop. Dogs cease to be man's best friends.

Soon, or so the movie's comic conceit would have it, human civilization itself grinds to a halt, proving that animals are essential to people's lives.

Only when the forest is saved do the animals call off their global strike, in time for the movie's regulation happy ending.

Eddie Murphy, who plays the title role anew, works really hard to keep the movie lively, but his best efforts aren't enough to distract viewers from the fact that this sequel's plot premise just doesn't offer that many possibilities in terms of authentic big-screen comedy.

In fact, it soon becomes all too obvious that this production feels less like a feature film than an ordinary episode in an extended sitcom.

Occasional humor and other fun time are provided by Dolittle's comic verbal exchanges with his animal friends—especially with his pet dog, who falls madly in love with a she-wolf in the forest.

But these come too few and far between to keep the movie's interest factor from dropping below the minimum level. "Dr. Dolittle, 2" "lives down" to its title, and does very little, indeed.

'Oprah'

"OPRAH" on Star World this week: Thursday, July 19, "Women Who Sing" features some of the hottest rising stars in the world of pop music: Grammy award winner **Yolanda Adams**, newcomer **Alicia Keys**, sister act **Mary Mary**, poet and singer **Jill Scott**, and **India Arie**, the artist whose hit video is striking a chord with mothers and daughters.

On Friday, July 20, **Julia Roberts**, **Billy Crystal** and **John Cusack** talk about their new movie, "America's Sweethearts." The film also stars Catherine Zeta-Jones, Hank Azaria and Christopher Walken.

'Joy Luck Club'

THE POPULAR films, "Joy Luck Club," will be screened on Star Movies on Tuesday, July 24 at 4:30 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. It stars **Ming-Na Wen**, **Tamlyn Tomita** and **France Nuyen**.

The movie tells the complex story of two generations of Chinese women and their American daughters. It unfolds when one young woman is invited to join the Joy Luck Club, the weekly *mahjong* group of her recently deceased mother.

A transfer of wisdom and affection begins as the club's three remaining original members go on an emotional journey back into their own personal histories, revealing the richness and painful contradictions of their hidden past.

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FINAL FANTASY - P 13 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	TOM CATS - R 18 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00	SWORD FISH - R 18 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30

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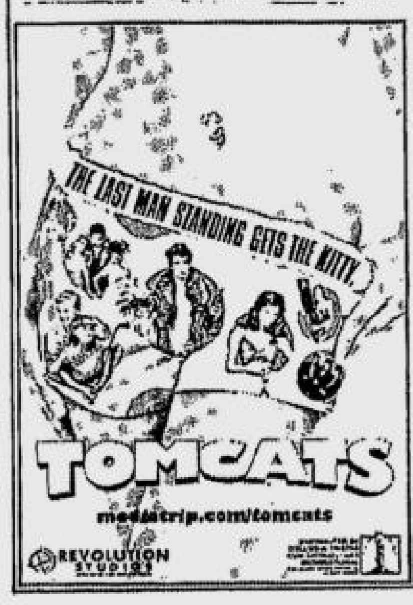

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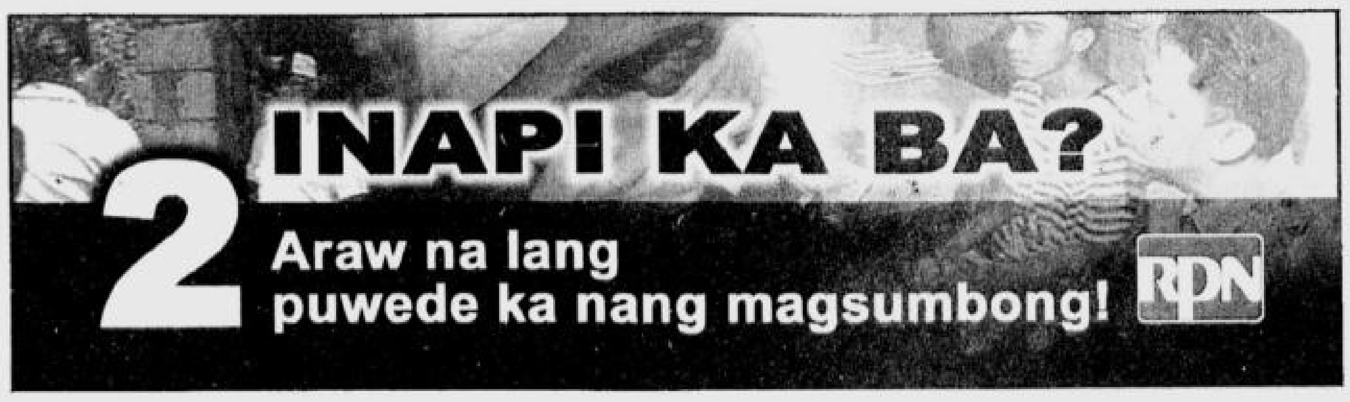
Nagpustahan ang barkada – sino ang huling barako na di patatali sa pag-aasawa?

Matapos ang ilang taon, sina Michael (Jerry O'Connell ng JERRY MAGUIRE) at Kyle (Jake Busey ng STARSHIP TROOPERS) na lang ang natitirang bachelor sa grupo.

Upang manalo sa pusta, ise-set up ni Mike si Kyle with super-seductive Natalie (Shannon Elizabeth ng SCARY MOVIE, AMERICAN PIE). Nguni't di niya inaasahan na malinlab din pala siya sa sexing dalaga. Manalo man siya sa pusta, maglalaho naman ang true love niya!

Silipin din sa hilarious sexy comedy from Columbia Pictures sina Playboy playmates Julia Schultz at Amber Smith. Rated R.

AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4
NOW SHOWING
Art Film
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
From the Critically Acclaimed Director of "CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON"
RIDE WITH THE DEVIL
A Film by ANG LEE
IN A NO-MAN'S LAND BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH, YOU DIDN'T FIGHT FOR THE BLUE OR THE GRAY... YOU FOUGHT FOR YOUR FRIENDS AND YOUR FAMILY.
SKEET ULRICH TOBEY MAGUIRE JEFFREY WRIGHT
Ang Lee ("The Ice Storm," "Sense and Sensibility" & Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon") once again takes audiences on a journey to a different time and place, and into his characters' internal conflicts. A cast of rising young stars portrays young Americans, striving to define themselves and the country they had always called home, amidst national turmoil. The screenplay for Ride with the Devil is adapted (by Lee's longtime collaborator, James Schamus) from Daniel Woodrell's novel Woe to Live On.



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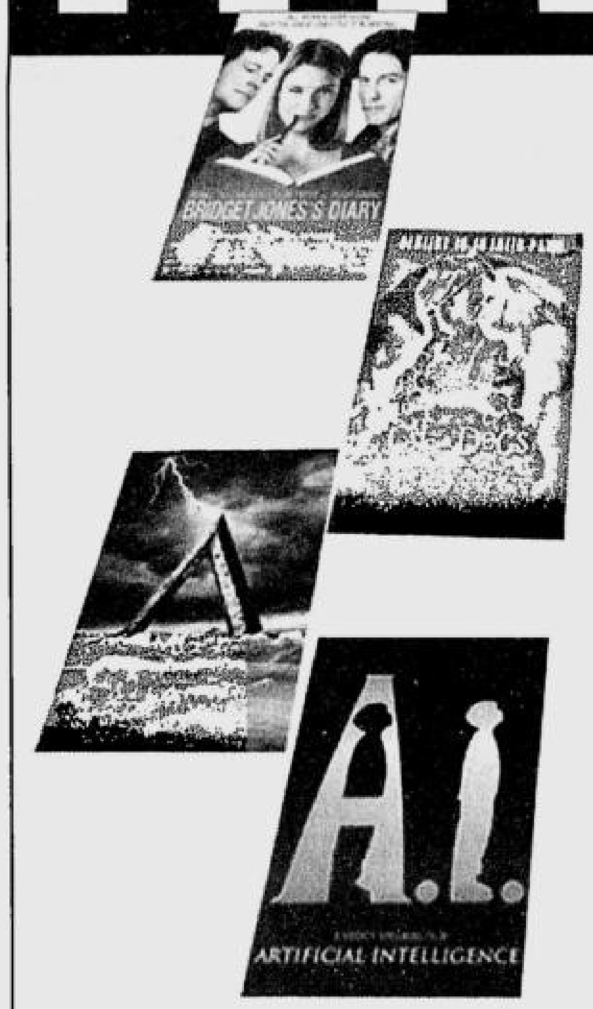
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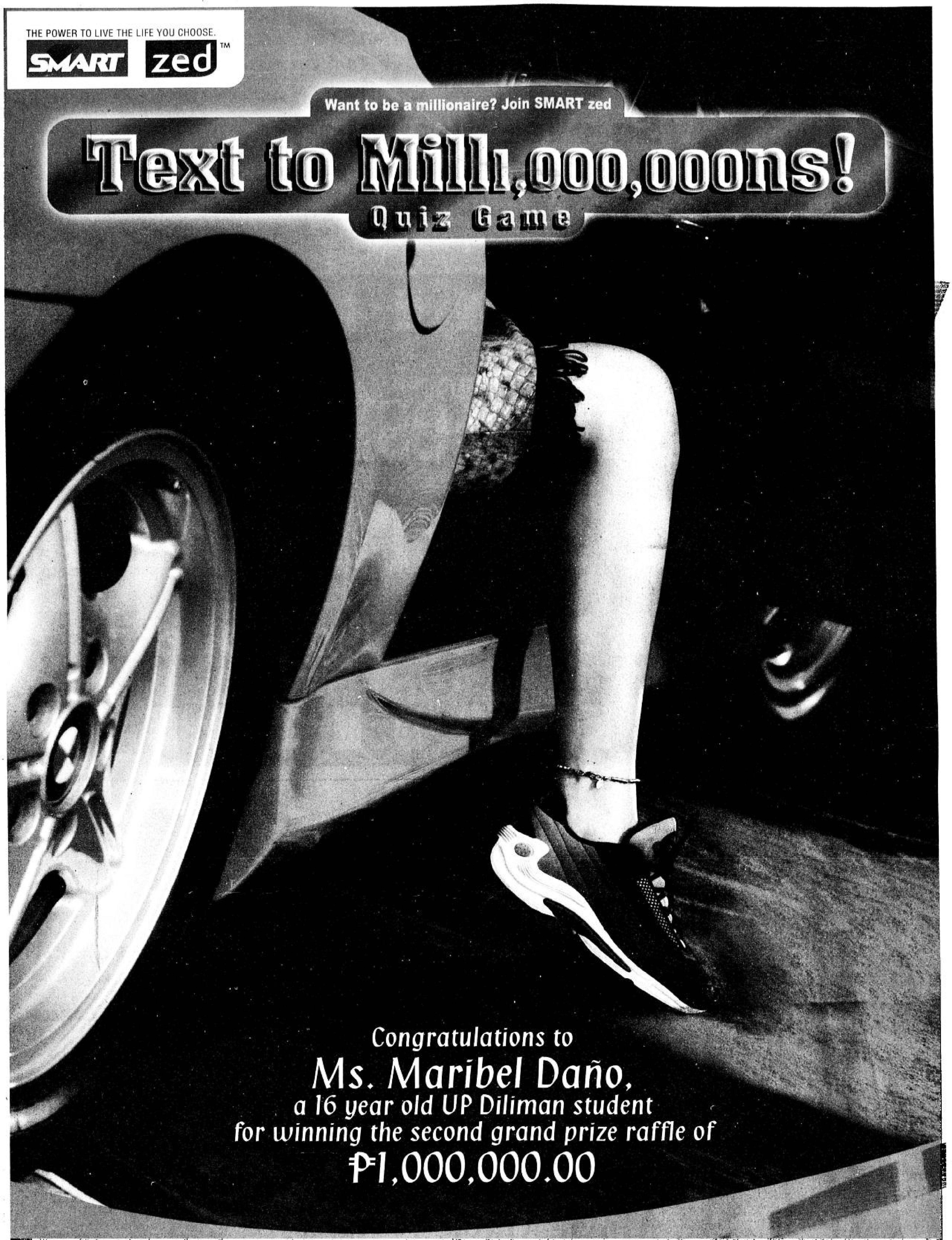

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June 10 - Arnon Acampong from Lanao del Norte
June 11 - Rogelio Cantos from Lucena City
June 12 - Edison Luna from Quezon City
June 13 - Rolando Velasco from Ilocos Sur
June 14 - Charlie Asaberos from Valenzuela
June 15 - Redmundo Mangaoang from Bulacan

SIEMENS S45:
June 16 - Vilma Badilo from Samar
June 17 - Benjamin Samonte from Pampanga
June 18 - Jamilah Macala from Manila
June 19 - Alberto [illegible] from Manila
June 20 - Gila Villanueva from Bacolod
June 21 - Norma Ramani from Ilocos Norte
June 22 - [illegible] Guzman from Pangasinan

PHILIPS OZEO:
June 23 - Johnny Martinez from Antipolo
June 24 - Kathy Ann Lago from Leyte
June 25 - Rela Simbulan from Marikina
June 26 - Amor Jao from Cebu
June 27 - Alegro [illegible] from Cavite
June 28 - Ma. Tilia [illegible] from Parañaque
June 29 - [illegible] Manayan from Pasig

ERICSSON [illegible] with Bluetooth:
June 30 - Rodrigo Jesay from Quezon City
July 1 - Aileen Encarnado from Cavite
July 2 - Aida Ner from Quezon City
July 3 - Maria Fe Estante from Iloilo
July 4 - Maynard Lumiog from Cavite
July 5 - Edwin Fernandez from Quezon
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San Miguel bags Cosmos for ₱14.5B

**BY DORIS C. DUMLAO
AND GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.**

FOOD and beverage conglomerate RFM Corp. has agreed to sell its entire 85-percent stake in profitable soft drink unit Cosmos Bottling Corp. to the San Miguel group.

"We are leaning toward the SMC-Coca Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. offer. There's an agreement in principle," RFM president and CEO Jose Concepcion III said in an interview yesterday.

Concepcion said RFM hoped to sign a formal agreement with SMC very soon. He declined to disclose the amount at which the groups agreed on the sale of the controlling stake in Cosmos.

The RFM group is expected to make a formal announcement about the deal today.

An INQUIRER source said the San Miguel-Coke tandem paid P14.5 billion for RFM's 85-percent share in Cosmos, including a P2.5-billion goodwill money that will go to RFM stockholders as dividends. The deal also contains a non-compete clause, which will ban the Concepcion family from going into the same business within a certain period.

The buyout package also covered the share of RFM in Cosmos' outstanding obligations of roughly P1 billion. This meant a net acquisition price of P11 billion, which the source estimated would translate to a price of P5.20 per share. This price, in turn, would be the basis of a tender offer to Cosmos minority shareholders.

There is mounting speculation that San Miguel-Coke would use the Cosmos public listing as a backdoor for its planned spin-off company covering non-carbonated drinks such as Coke's Minute Maid and Hi-C brands, Sugarland's Eight O'clock and Ponkan and La Tondeña's Viva and Wilkins brands.

A family insider said the Concepcions chose San Miguel-Coke's offer partly because they were more confident in dealing with industry players rather than Pepsico, which had to get the backing of Carlyle Group, a Washington-based investment firm specializing in corporate mergers and acquisitions, to make an offer.

Concepcion said RFM chose the SMC group over an alternative offer from US-based Pepsico Inc. because the former had offered a better cash value for the 85-percent stake in Cosmos.

"It took sometime to evaluate the bids but we'd go for better value," he said.

Other sources estimated the deal amounted to between P12 billion and P15 billion. Earlier, they said SMC-Coke offered only P12 billion while Pepsico's offer was slightly more than P14 billion ($270 million).

Other sources privy to the deal said there were still several issues on the terms and conditions being ironed out.

RFM shares yesterday ended 17 centavos lower at P2.38 from Tuesday's closing as investors took profit on news of the deal with SMC. SMC "B", on the other hand, was unchanged at P52 while Cosmos shares rose 5 centavos to P4.85.

Despite the economic contraction during the last few years, Cosmos was able to improve the market share for its flagship brands Sarsi and Pop-Cola.

Imports rose 10% in May to $2.7B

THE COUNTRY'S annual import bill picked up for the second consecutive month in May.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that year-on-year import expenditures rose further by 10 percent in May to $2.68 billion from a 6.5-percent growth in April, buoyed by the increase in shipments of electronic components as well as telecommunication equipment and electrical machinery.

This brought the country's total external trade in goods for January to May to $26.05 billion, 3.7 percent lower than the year-ago figure. During the period, the country still enjoyed a trade surplus of $764 million, although this was 44 percent lower than the $1.36 billion posted last year.

Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas yesterday said in a television interview that he was confident that the country would not slip into a recession this year. However, he said the country's gross domestic product (GDP) growth might hit only the lower end of the government's target range of 3.3 to 3.8 percent.

Import growth is a key indicator of economic performance in the Philippines because of the high import content of its biggest export earners such as electronics and garments. A weakening of imports is usually indicative of weakening exports.

In May, electronic components, which accounted for 20.7 percent of the total import bill, rose by 12.5 percent to $553.93 million. Purchases of telecommunication equipment and electrical machinery, which had a 10.7-percent share, likewise rose by 4.5 percent to $287.12 million.

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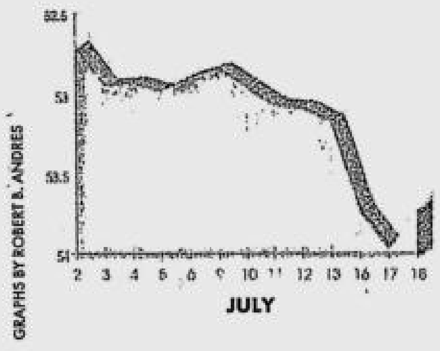


Peso-Dollar Rate

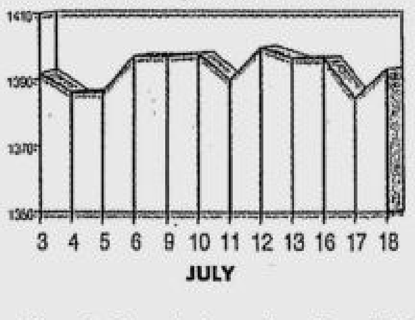
₱ 53.70 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
July 18, 2001

¥ 125.28 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 125.28 as of 5 p.m., July 18, 2001

GOLD:$268.30/268.80
per ounce Hong Kong,
July 18, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks up

STOCKS closed higher yesterday, helped by news of higher year-on-year imports in May and select buying in blue chips.

But traders and fund managers said investors remained cautious because of the fall in the peso to more than 54 to the dollar early yesterday, the first time since Jan. 19.

The 33-share composite index gained 9.17 points, or 0.66 percent, to 1,393.18. Gainers swamped losers 43 to 16 while the prices of 47 issues were unchanged.

Turnover, however, was lower at P325.16 million from P798.65 million on Tuesday.

"It's possible that the market is reacting to the strong import numbers. It's an indication that exports may also recover soon," said Vincent Lazatin, vice president at Worldwide Investment Management Company of the Philippines. *Reuters*

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BellTel plans to go nationwide

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

BELL Telecommunication Phil. Inc. has spent over P1 billion for the rollout of its broadband communications network designed to serve more than 15 million customers nationwide.

"We currently have the widest broadband coverage—from the Greater Manila Area to Biñan, Laguna," Bell Telecom vice president for sales and marketing Joby de Belen said yesterday during the launch of its i-Direct lineup of broadband communications solutions.

Bell Telecom's i-Direct service is a last-mile connectivity package that uses wireless access and fiber-optic technology to deliver broadband Internet to the customer.

"This was designed to address the needs of the Philippine market for high-speed Internet connectivity at prices that may result in the lowering of the costs of broadband services. This will also usher in the next generation of communications technology," he added.

De Belen said Bell Telecom was planning to expand its operations to cover Cavite, Subic, Clark, Baguio, Davao and Cebu.

"This is Phase 2 of our broadband rollout program and we expect it to be completed by September this year," he added.

Bell Telecom chair and CEO Edgardo Reyes said that the company's plan was to go nationwide in the near future.

"We're making high-speed broadband available to everyone who needs it," he said.

In light of their expansion efforts, Bell Telecom is set to infuse additional capital soon.

"I guess we will need another P1 billion to get to other promising areas," Reyes said.

He disclosed that Bell Telecom has acquired a P1-billion loan from the Japan Export Import Bank.

It is a term loan payable in seven years, inclusive of a two-year grace period, with the interest rate fixed at 13 percent.

Reyes added: "If we will not be able to raise additional capital, we will borrow some more money. We hope that the economic situation improves so we can access the foreign capital market."

As for getting listed in the stock market, Reyes said that this option would be considered later with the entry of a foreign strategic partner.

"We want a partner who will share our vision and will contribute not only money but also technological know-how," he said.

Bell Telecom is an all-Filipino company owned largely by publicly listed South China Resources. Other owners include the Maramba, Ortigas and Bayot families.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, July 18, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	70	70.5	69.5	70	201,800
China Banking Corp.	610	610	610	610	2,130
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	37	37	36.5	37	69,800
First E-Bank Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	20,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	203	205	203	204	61,600
Philippine National Bank	41	41.5	41	41.5	27,100
Phil. Savings Bank	29.5	30	29.5	30	7,000
Security Bank Corp.	20	20.5	19.5	20.5	73,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	25	25	25	25	4,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	240	240	240	240	400
Manulife Financial Corp.	1460	1475	1460	1475	2,160
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1285	1295	1280	1295	10,270
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	2,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.5	2,660,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	670	670	670	670	250
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.039	0.042	0.039	0.042	1,600,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	11,130,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	24,000
Piltel	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	690	695	690	690	68,800
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.034	0.034	0.033	0.034	19,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	37.5	37.5	37	37	19,900
Manila Electric Co. B	49.5	49.5	48.5	49	516,100
Petron Corp.	1.98	2.02	1.98	2.02	1,724,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	10,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.1	2.26	2.1	2.22	17,635,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	5,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	170,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.8	4.85	4.75	4.85	670,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	45,800
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	26.5	26.5	26	26.5	11,000
RFM Corp.	2.48	2.5	2.38	2.38	8,542,000
San Miguel Corp. A	43	43	42.5	42.5	43,100
San Miguel Corp. B	52	52.5	51	52	182,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.78	0.78	0.76	0.77	410,000
Ayala Corp.	6.7	6.8	6.6	6.8	1,166,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	506,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11	11.25	11	11.25	1,200
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.24	1.4	1.24	1.38	9,229,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	50,000
APC Group Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	90,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.006	13,000,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	100
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.76	1.94	1.76	1.9	19,620,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,410,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.11	0.11	200,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	32	33.5	32	32	356,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.18	120,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	30,000
Ipeople Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.26	1.28	259,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.02	2.04	2.02	2.04	207,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.5	1.54	1.5	1.54	30,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.72	0.73	320,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.46	1,220,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	5	6.3	5	6	32,000
Philtread Hdgs. Corp. B	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	1,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	10,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.25	0.21	0.25	690,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	5	5	5	5	1,000
Music Corp.	1.88	1.88	1.84	1.88	115,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	200,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	200,000
Prime Gaming Mgmt. Corp.	20	20	20	20	48,000
Pryce Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	20,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15	15	15	15	25,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.49	0.52	0.49	0.52	3,270,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.5	1,610,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.29	350,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	40,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref.	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	1,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	495	495	495	495	740
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	45,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	670	670	670	670	1,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0028	0.0026	0.0028	37,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,800
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	3,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.021	36,900,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5	5.1	4.95	5.1	1,621,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	30,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	250,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	4,260,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.12	2.12	2.1	2.1	1,935,000
SM Development Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	240,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.4	578,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	2,500,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	5,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	20,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.039	0.0525	0.039	0.05	217,700,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.044	0.0525	0.044	0.0525	4,800,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	10,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.19	200,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	218,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	66,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	95,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.023	33,700,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.42	0.44	0.42	0.44	2,880,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.45	0.48	0.45	0.48	4,110,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.022	38,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0044	0.0046	0.0044	0.0046	29,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	16,000,000
Pacifica	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	24,700,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.17	0.2	0.16	0.2	3,960,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	479,860	49,997,250.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	193,799,490	239,189,790.00
PRO	11,414,000	17,643,700.00
Mining	647,420,000	16,356,900.00
OIL	111,660,000	2,167,300.00
GRAND TOTALS:	964,773,350	325,354,940.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	562.30	DOWN 0.61
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,981.68	UP 7.84
PRO	525.41	UP 6.56
Mining	1,388.05	UP 57.19
OIL	1.74	UP 0.08
All Shares Index	809.12	UP 8.67
Composite	1,393.18	UP 9.17

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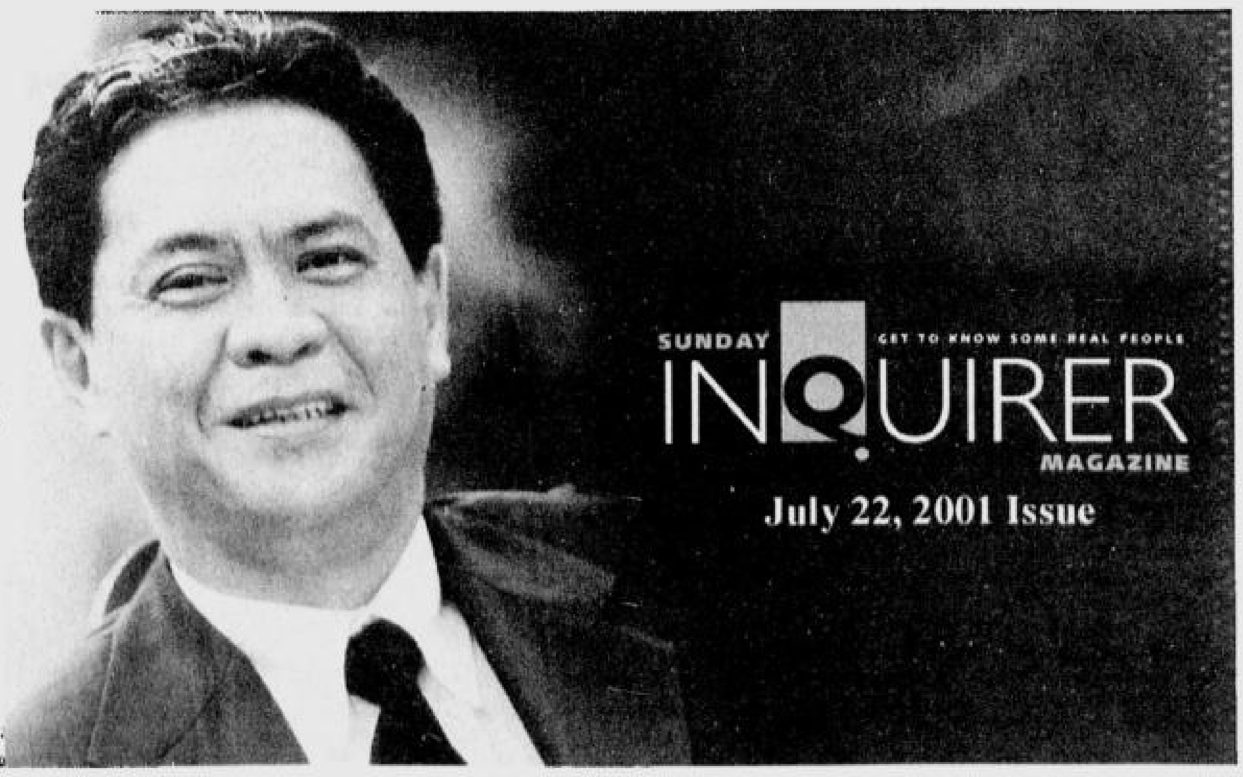
Rigoberto "Bobi" Tiglao

The President's Voice

Presidential spokesman Bobi Tiglao still admits to getting the shakes when he's facing an audience - and when he knows that the fate of a nation is dependent on his words



SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

July 22, 2001 Issue

January-June budget deficit hits ₱79.55B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT'S budget deficit in the first half of the year hit P79.559 billion, slightly lower than the P80.6-billion target for the six-month period but was already more than half of the P145-billion full year projection.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the full-year target remained achievable particularly with the P1.1 billion in unprogrammed remittance from the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. to the national government next month. The remittance represents the government's share in the proceeds from the liquidation of the defunct Piso Bank.

Despite the first half performance, Camacho said the government would stick to its target.

Sources blamed the higher deficit to poor revenue collections. Spending during the six-month period of P346.258 billion, although 3 percent lower than the projected P357.23 billion, exceeded revenues.

Government revenues reached only P266.699 billion, 4 percent lower than the six-month target of P276.63 billion.

The Bureaus of Internal Revenue and Customs reported revenue shortfalls of P14.868 billion and P1.882 billion. The Bureau of Treasury, for its part, registered P5.931 billion in earnings surplus.

The first half revenue collection consisted of P191.077 billion from the BIR, P45.899 billion from the BOC, the Treasury's P14.677 billion and P15.046 billion from fee-generating offices of the government.

The government was able to raise only P482 million from privatization as against a full-year target of P10 billion this year.

Savings from interest payments reached P1.888 billion because of lower interest rates in the first half.

In June alone, the budget deficit of P21.2 billion was 12.76 percent more than target of P18.88 billion. Earnings reached P36.953 billion versus a target of P40.6 billion while expenditures amounting to P58.186 billion were lower than the P59.4 billion programmed for the month.

A chronic shortfall in the BIR collection prompted the Macapagal economic team to cut the agency's collection target by P20 billion to P388 billion. The Bureau of Custom's target was kept at P105 billion.

Camacho said the P20-billion cut in the full-year BIR target would be offset by the expected P4 billion surplus of the Bureau of Treasury, an additional P3 billion in privatization proceeds, P2 billion surplus in fees and charges and P1 billion in foreign grants.

He said the P10 billion savings from spending would be treated part of earnings.

DTI to complete probe of cement dumping issue

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has vowed to wrap up by next month its ongoing probe of the cement dumping case filed by Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp. against Taiwan Cement Corp.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II assured the two parties that the agency "will observe the cold neutrality that is expected of any government agency conducting similar procedures."

If the DTI upholds Philcemcor's complaint, the agency will forward its decision to the Tariff Commission for final ruling. Under the Safeguard Measures Act, the DTI can impose a provisional tariff on cement imports for 200 days to protect local industries against import surge. The provisional measure will be paid to the government in the form of a cash bond by importers.

In a related development, the Federation of Philippine Industries has backed the separate petitions of cement manufacturers and ceramic tile makers for safeguard measures against imports with the Department of Trade and Industry.

FPI president Antonio M. Garcia said these industries were vital to the country's economy because of the billions of pesos invested in their factories and the thousands of direct and indirect employees.

Garcia said that the safeguard measures would allow the affected industries to undergo structural adjustment. "The higher tariffs and quantitative restrictions are meant to temporarily stop import surges. Without them, the affected industries would not survive."

FPI reported that cement imports from Taiwan, Japan and Indonesia have increased by 433 percent and 372 percent in 1999 and 2000 (first nine months), respectively. Garcia said the collapse of the local cement industry would cost 75,000 jobs.

In the case of tile makers, Garcia said that imports of ceramic tiles have jumped by 57 percent in 1999 and 82 percent in the first half of 2000. The industry's employees have been cut by nearly half from 2,000 in 1997.

Primex holds IPO on Aug. 10

By Doris C. Dumlao

REAL estate firm Primex Corp. will become the second local company to brave the battered market this year when it debuts on the Philippine Stock Exchange on Aug. 10.

Primex yesterday finalized the offering of its secondary shares representing 33.5-percent of its total equity with the signing of the underwriting deal with First Metro Investment Corp. It will be the first company to list on the main board this year.

FMIC president Francisco Sebastian said the offering and listing of secondary shares amounting to 67 million common shares at P2.20 per share would give Primex better access to other sources of funds. This will translate to an offer size of P147 million.

Sebastian said that while it might seem that Primex was defying market sentiment especially amid the continuing slump in the property sector, the offering was a strategic move that would enable the company to take advantage of further opportunities in the future especially amid the recent freefall of the peso against the dollar.

"Property is a hedge against currency. It is only property, which will beat the foreign exchange (volatility)," Sebastian said.

"We can't afford to just wait and see what will happen. Part of the solution is to make things happen," he said, noting that the Primex offering took two years of preparation.

Primex chair and president Ernesto Ang yesterday said there will not yet be an offering of primary shares to the public because the company had no big funding requirement yet.

Ang said the company, which concentrates on the middle-to upper-end markets, hoped to pursue further development and market more inventories in the future.

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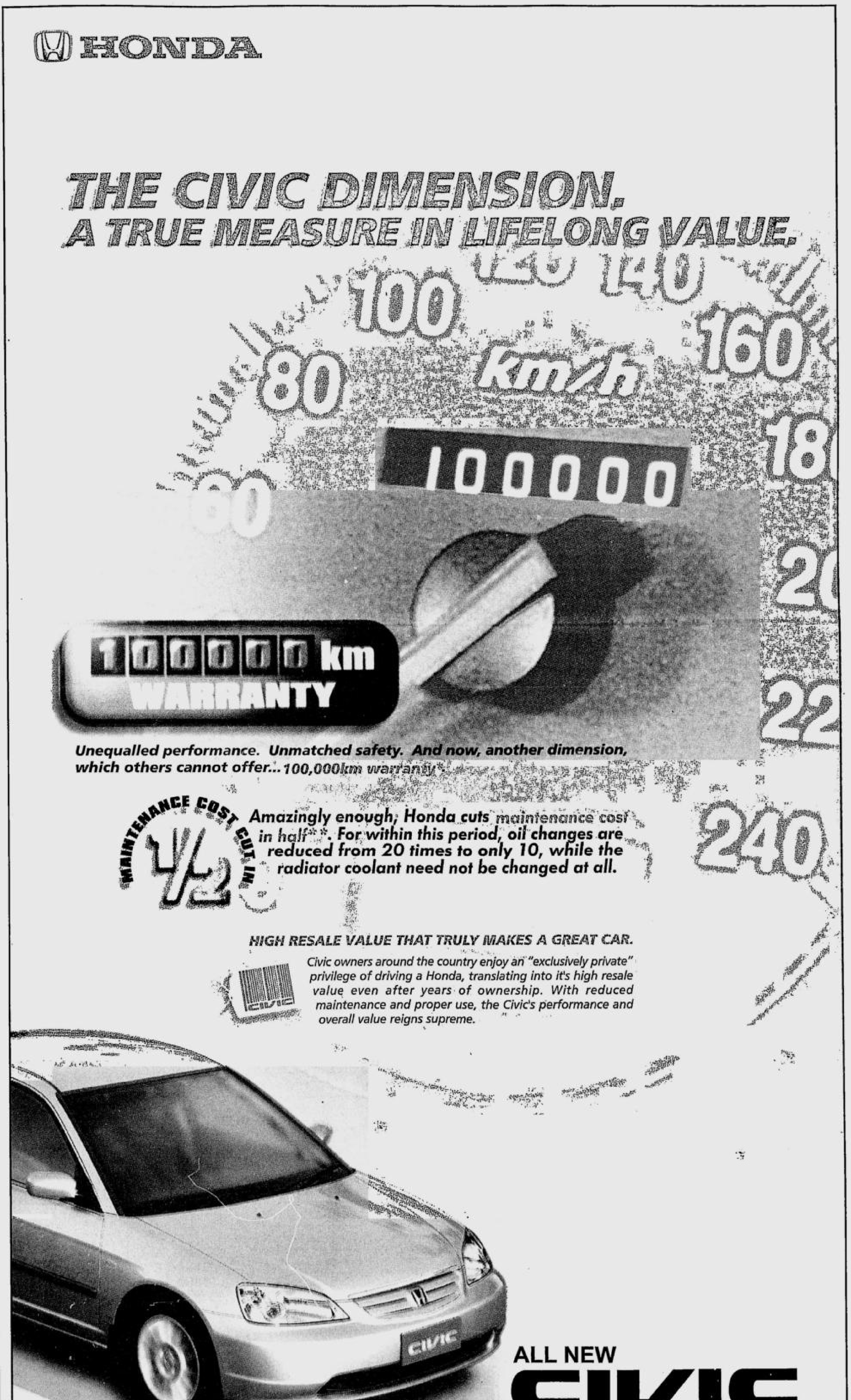
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Invitation for Bids No. C-018-01

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) invites bonafide bidders for the Supply of Janitorial Services. Interested bidders may inspect the NIA Complex and its facilities located at NIA Bldg., EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City.

Bid documents shall be issued from 30 July to 07 September 2001 at the Procurement Division, Ground Floor, NIA Bldg., EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00).

A Pre-Bidding Conference shall be held on 14 August 2001, 2:00 PM at the Conference Room of the Assistant Administrator for Administrative Services, Ground Floor, NIA Bldg., Quezon City.

Bids shall be delivered and publicly opened on 23 August 2001, 2:00 PM at the same venue.

All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security equivalent to at least 2.5% of the total bid price.

The NIA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare the bidding a failure or waive any informalities or to award such bids to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) GABRIEL Q. ENRIQUEZ
PBAC Chairman

(PDI--July 19 & 25, 2001)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **CHAN CHUN KIT** has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs on July 13, 2001 under Doc#388, Page#79, Book#14, Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Antonio U. Gonzales of Makati City.
(PDI-July 19, 26, & Aug. 2, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late ENRIQUETA BARCELON-LIM was extra-judicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. No. 228, Page No. 47, Book NO. XXI, Series of 2001, before Notary Public Manuel Sabado of Makati City.
(PDI-July 5, 12, 19, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given on the loss of Stock Certificate #1823 Issued by Capitol Hills Golf & Country Club, Inc. to Ms. Chuang Mying Hwa. If no contest is presented, new certificate will be issued.
Call 818-4234
(PDI-July 5, 12 & 19, 2001)

Notice is given that Meralco A Stock Certificate No. 574576 under the name of FELICIANO P. GAMMAD was lost.
(PDI-July19, 26 & Aug.2,2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS
The following stock certificate of **Mr. JANGIN HO** has been declared lost Orchard Golf & Country Club Cert # B 0 0 3 1
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By BONG BARRAMEDA

Getting stuck

Q. Why doesn't instant glue get stuck inside its tube?

A. Most modern glues are wholly synthetic, resins made from petroleum chemicals. When exposed to the slightest race of moisture, the glue's small molecules swiftly join together to form longer ones—a process called polymerization—and the glue sets in seconds. Inside the tube, polymerization is prevented by an acidic stabilizer. But the moment the glue is applied to a surface the most minute amount of moisture overcomes the action of the stabilizer, and the resin polymerizes instantly. It is the presence of water ions—groups of atoms that have an electric charge—that triggers the process. And these ions are present on practically any surface that is exposed to the air, because the air always contains some moisture.

Take a Tip. Instant glues stick to readily to your skin because it is moist. When stuck to a drinking glass or door knob, you can easily free yourself by soaking the stuck part in warm water and gently prying it away. This skin-sticking property is not always an unwelcome thing. Superglues have been used in surgery as an aerosol spray to seal wounds and reduce bleeding when manual stitching became risky or extremely difficult to perform.

Past Forward. This day in 1955: Disneyland opened near Anaheim, California. The brainchild of film producer Walt Disney, the 160-acre amusement park featured four sections: Fantasyland, Frontierland, Adventureland, and Tomorrowland. Disneyland has received more than 500 million visitors.

WORD WATCH

Fantasy (fan tuh see) : From the Greek *phantasia*, which has vague meaning of "a making visible," used by Greek philosop they wanted to refer to a power of the mind for putting things be

PDI -- July 19, 2001

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Our Dearly Beloved

CARIDAD "CARING" SEVERO ACOP

peacefully joined her Creator on July 15, 2001 at the age of 67.

Her husband **Rodolfo Sr.**; children **Rodolfo Jr.**; and **Dolor**; **Adel** and **Paul**; **Dencio** and **Jocelyn**; **Rolando** and **Ana**; **Carmelita** and **Edward**; and **Fatima**; grandchildren; brothers; sisters; other relatives; and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the family residence at 377 Cruz, La Trinidad, Benguet.

Interment is on July 22, 2001, Sunday after the 9:00 A.M. Mass at the Catholic Chapel, Acop, Tublay, Benguet.

Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again.

John 12:16

God saw you getting tired,
When a cure was not to be.
So He wrapped His arms around you,
And whispered, "Come to Me."
You didn't deserve what you went through,
So He gave you rest.

God's garden must be beautiful,
He only picks the best.
And when I saw you sleeping,
So peaceful and free from pain,
I could not wish you back,
To suffer that again.

IN LOVING MEMORY

on the Second Death Anniversary of

MOONYEEN R. ABESAMIS-AYACHE

who passed on to Eternal Life on July 20, 1999

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered at the following Churches:

Philippines July 19, 2001	**Garden of Love, Loyola Memorial Park** *Marikina City*	4:30 p.m. Mass
July 20, 2001	**Miraculous Medal Parish** *Project 4, Quezon City*	6:00 a.m.
	Monastery of St. Clare *Katipunan Road, Quezon City*	6:00 a.m.
	Sta. Maria dela Strada *Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City*	6:00 a.m.
	Transfiguration of Christ *18th Avenue, Quezon City*	6:00 a.m.
	Sacred Heart Parish *Kamuning, Quezon City*	6:00 a.m.
	Holy Family Parish *7th St., Kamias, Quezon City*	6:00 a.m.
	Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish *Guadalupe, Makati City*	6:00 a.m.
	La Resurreccion Parish *Victoria, Laguna*	6:00 a.m.
	Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament *Chapel, Valle Verde 5, Pasig City*	6:30 a.m.
	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish *13th Avenue, Quezon City*	7:00 a.m.
	St. Ignatius de Loyola Parish *Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City*	7:00 a.m.
	St. Joseph Shrine *Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City*	7:45 a.m.
	Sto. Niño de Tondo Parish *Tondo, Manila*	8:00 a.m.
	Mother of Perpetual Help Parish *Mabini Homesite Subdivision, Cabanatuan City*	5:30 p.m.
	Ubanon Church *Ubanon, Catbalogan, Samar*	5:00 p.m.
	San Bartolome Church *Catbalogan, Samar*	5:30 a.m.
	Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish *Broadway Ave., New Manila, Quezon City*	6:00 p.m.
Japan July 20, 2001	**Koza Catholic Church** *KAMARA 1-4-1, Okinawa, Japan*	8:00 a.m.

We, her parents Justice & Mrs. Bernardo P. Abesamis; husband Rudy; daughter Micah Aubrey; brothers Atty. Ferdie, Atty. Edmund, Engr. Jun, Atty. Al and Q.C. Councilor Rommel; sister Dr. Gigi Abesamis-Recasata; in-laws, nephews and nieces request readers, relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

In behalf and in memory of my dearest husband

Giovanni A. Ceballos

November 4, 1972 – July 11, 2001

who lived a life full of love

Thank you to my family Daddy Freddie, Mommy Luz, Gerard, Garvey, Lara, Godar; our grandmothers, uncles, aunts and Tita Nitz; Dad and Mom, Leah, Justin, and Russia, for showing Giovanni so much love and affection. For all the strength and support during his last days, I like to express my gratitude to all our friends. I love you for being here... for him.

Love,
Cherry Enrile-Ceballos

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ATTY. SIMEON G. CASINGAL

of Makati City

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on 17 July 2001 at the age of 79.

He is survived by his wife **Virginia**; children **Edgardo** and **Gloria**, **Teresa** and **Edwin Ramizo**, **Bro. Bobby, FSC**, **Imelda** and **Lito Ocampo**, **Cristina**, **Arturo** and **Joycelie**; brother and sister-in-law **Meliton** and **Beatriz**; grandchildren, nephews and nieces.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment to be announced later.

DR. TEOFILO V. GONZALES SR.

Of Malabon City

Died at the age of 94 on July 16, 2001
at Cardinal Santos Medical Center

CHILDREN	GRANDCHILDREN	GREAT GRANDCHILDREN
Lucy & Atty. Antonino P. San Juan Jr.	**Cynthia & Teddy Daet** **Joel & Dingding Bihis**	**Joey, Raffy & Gabby** **Jayjay**
Engr. Bienvenido & Amada P. San Juan	**Dindo & Maloy Galon** **Benjie & Sol Florentino** **Amy & Ted Mirasol**	**Dondi, Bienbien & Miggo** **JB, Twins Jess & Jonjon** **Twins Miggi & Luigi**
Teofilo Jr. & Josefina C. Lucas	**Jona** **Ditos & Candy Cayco**	

Relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Floresco Funeral Homes, Gen. Luna St., Malabon City.

Interment will be on Friday, July 20, 2001 at Holy Cross Memorial Park, after the 1 p.m. Mass at the Immaculate Conception Parish Church.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."

Genesis 1:3

ELIEZER N. ECHAVEZ JR.

of Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte

Died in the Grace of our Lord at the age of 39 at the National Kidney Institute in Quezon City.

He is survived by his mother **Ceferina**, his siblings **Maphilinda** and **Long**; **Ann Evan**; **Dick** and **Andrea**; **Marilou**; **Nixon** and **Lhei**; and **Paul** and nephews **Patrick**, **Matthew** and **Benedict** and nieces **Giselle**, **Sofia** and **Star**.

His body lies in state at the St. Peter Memorial Chapels, 296 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation is set on Saturday, July 21, 2001.

Future Malampaya earnings seen backing up $500-M loan

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration said yesterday it could raise as much as $500 million using future state earnings from the Malampaya natural gas project in Palawan.

In a news conference yesterday, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho disclosed that he had received an offer from an investment bank to underwrite a $200-million to $500-million loan using future earnings from Malampaya as collateral.

The government hopes to earn at least $13 billion over 20 years from the natural gas project.

"The proposal of the investment bank, which I could not name, looks workable and more convincing than the other proposals. If we were to securitize earnings from Malampaya, we'll do it this year," Camacho said.

He said the government could borrow against the earnings of Malampaya in the next five to seven years.

"We would only securitize a portion of the earnings. The $13 billion include royalties and revenues of the local government apart from the earnings that will go to the national government," he told reporters.

The finance secretary said the government would also pursue the planned securitization of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp's earnings in the next seven years.

"I am going to meet with Pagcor soon and the plan to securitize is still an option," he disclosed.

80 percent of the Malampaya project is split equally between Shell Exploration Philippines BV, a unit of The Royal Dutch/Shell Group of Companies and US firm Texaco Corp. The Philippine National Construction Corp. holds a 10-percent stake.

These companies are spending around $2 billion to harness 3.4 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in Malampaya and put up an offshore, high-pressure gas pipeline from Palawan to Batangas.

Studies show that Malampaya has enough natural gas to produce 3,000 megawatts for 20 years.

First Gas Power Corp., a company controlled by the Lopez group of companies, will use natural gas from Malampaya to power its Sta. Rita and San Lorenzo power plants that generate a combined 1,000 megawatts starting this year.

Currencies

July 18, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.164144	1.000000	53.8960
Japan	Yen	0.009317	0.008003	0.4313
United Kingdom	Pound	1.630966	1.401000	75.5083
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.149441	0.128370	6.9186
Switzerland	Franc	0.663406	0.569866	30.7135
Canada	Dollar	0.756970	0.650237	35.0452
Singapore	Dollar	0.635104	0.545554	29.4032
Australia	Dollar	0.591837	0.508386	27.4001
Bahrain	Dinar	3.088080	2.652661	142.9678
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.310439	0.266667	14.3723
Brunei	Dollar	0.632516	0.543331	29.2834
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000102	0.000088	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.025468	0.021877	1.1791
UAE	Dirham	0.317033	0.272331	14.6776
Korea	Won	0.000892	0.000766	0.0413
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.859000	46.2967
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.4392	23.6711
France	Franc	0.152450	0.130954	7.0579
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.389797	21.0085
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.062426	3.3645
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021294	1.1477
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000444	0.0239
Finland	Markka	0.168187	0.144473	7.7865
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004285	0.2309
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005163	0.2783
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.021294	1.1477
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.090705	58.7846

Sky, Home sign 'master' merger deal

By Abigail L. Ho

CABLE television giants Sky Vision Corp. and Home Cable Inc. yesterday signed a "master consolidation agreement" to form the country's biggest cable TV company.

Oscar Lopez and Eugenio Lopez III of Sky Vision and Manuel Pangilinan of Home Cable signed the agreement.

Under the agreement, Sky Vision and Home Cable will take in a strategic investor as soon as they complete their merger.

"A few discussions have been going on with potential investors," Pangilinan said.

Lopez said Sky Vision and Home Cable would begin talks with a third party "as soon as the merger is complete."

A person familiar with the matter said the entry of a new partner would reduce Sky Vision's and Home Cable's stake in a holding company they were forming from 50 percent each to just 33 percent.

Mediaquest Holdings Inc., a subsidiary of No. 1 telecommunications firm Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., owns Home Cable. Sky Vision operates SkyCable, a trademark under the Lopez group of companies.

Sky Vision and Home Cable signed a broad merger agreement in April.

Industry sources said the deal was worth over P14.5 billion.

The April agreement did not give a clear picture of how the Sky Vision-Home Cable merger would look like, and only served as a guide for future discussions on costs and resolution of redundancies involving programs and personnel.

One source said Home Cable and Sky Vision had already completed their due diligence and had hurdled issues involving valuation.

PLDT began exploring tie-ups with the Lopez group last year to pursue a strategy to integrate its telecommunications business with the Internet and mass media.

Another source said Sky Vision and Home Cable did not exactly merge but only consolidated their assets.

8 banks offer to help gov't sell Napocor

EIGHT foreign investment banks have offered to help the government sell the National Power Corp. to the private sector.

Finance Secretary Jose Camacho said in a news conference yesterday that BPI Capital Corp., Salomon Smith and Barney, Credit Suisse First Boston, ING Barings-PricewaterhouseCoopers, JP Morgan Chase & Co., Lehman Brothers, NM Rothschild and the Mac Quarie Group. had offered to design a model for Napocor's privatization.

Camacho, who chairs Napocor, said the government would trim the list on July 25.

He said the financial advisor would have until the end of the year to come up with a plan on how to sell Napocor's power generation companies, a transmission company, and its real estate assets.

"Our timetable was to privatize Napocor 15 to 18 months after the passage of the (power reform) bill," Camacho said.

Napocor's privatization is expected to lead to lower power rates on account of a more efficient production and distribution of electricity.

StanChart to quadruple earnings in RP

By Elena R. Torrijos

STANDARD Chartered Bank predicted yesterday that it would quadruple profits from its Philippine operations this year.

"As a whole, we're doing extremely well because of revenue growth and cost control," Standard Chartered country manager Annemarie Durbin told reporters on Tuesday.

Standard Chartered has been awarded a universal bank license.

Durbin said the new license would allow Standard Chartered to concentrate on its wholesale business, specifically the underwriting of corporate debts.

As a universal bank, Standard Chartered is now authorized to arrange and distribute debt securities of corporations, non-bank financial institutions and the government.

The UK-based bank may now participate in the underwriting, origination and distribution of debt securities of corporate clients with products such as short- and long-term commercial papers, medium-term notes and fixed-rate certificate of deposits and bonds.

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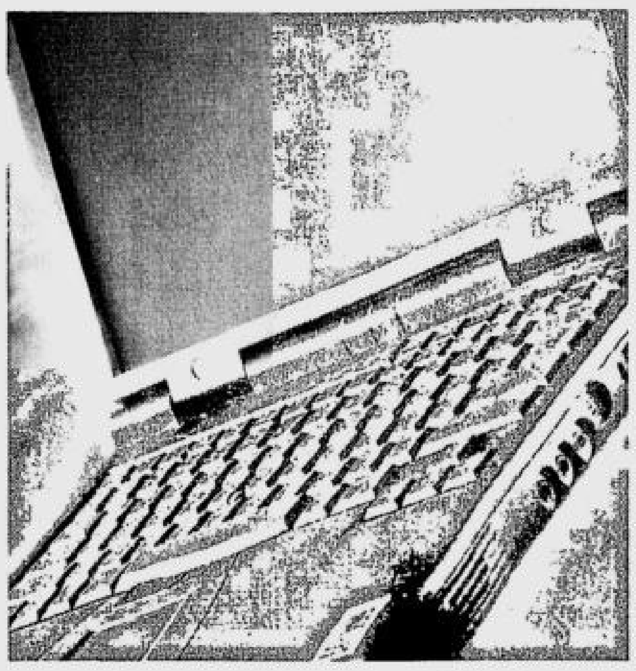

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WTO sees more trade conflicts in SE Asia

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

INCOMING World Trade Organization director general Supachai Panitchpakdi yesterday warned that the economic slowdown of the world's major economies would lead to more trade disputes between member-states of the grouping.

In a forum sponsored by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Panitchpakdi, former Thailand deputy prime minister, said fears of a stagflation in the world's biggest economies have made it more difficult to resolve trade disputes between countries.

He said these conflicts were so trivial that they would not have been an issue during the economic boom period.

Panitchpakdi said the increasing number of trade disputes could stall the WTO's bid for freer global trade. He said the slowdown could be seen from Malaysia's decision to defer tariff cuts on its automotive industry and Singapore's preference for bilateral trade agreements.

In view of the gloomy economic outlook for the US, European and Japan economies, Panitchpakdi said opposition to globalization was fast gaining ground.

Panitchpakdi said that China's looming entry into the WTO could have a major impact on Asean especially in terms of foreign direct investment flow.

He said with a WTO membership, China could boost its FDI share in the region from 60 percent to 80 percent while Asean could see its share dwindle from 16 percent to 8 percent.

Instead of slowing down the march toward globalization, Panitchpakdi said the Philippines and other Asean countries must continue with their trade reforms by pursuing a broader trading block with the formation of the East Asia trading area.

By continuing the trade reforms and pursuing broader regional trading partnerships, Panitchpakdi said the Philippines and Asean could ensure their survival in a globalized market.

Intel's Q2 profits tumble 76%

SAN FRANCISCO—Intel Corp. on Tuesday reported second-quarter profits that plunged 76 percent, as the world's largest semiconductor maker was hit by the triple-whammy of a slowing economy, slack PC sales and a stinging price war.

But Santa Clara, California-based Intel, also forecast that sales in the third quarter would be $6.2 billion to $6.8 billion, compared with $6.3 billion in the second quarter. That range, while very wide, did provide some comfort that sales will rebound in the second half of the year.

"Their guidance is very wide, very broad," said Justin McNichols, portfolio manager with San Francisco-based Osborne Partners Capital Management, which owns Intel stock. "What the bulls were hoping for would be some kind of flat guidance and, in a roundabout way, that's what they got."

For the quarter ended June 30, Intel said net income, excluding acquisition-related costs, fell to $854 million, or 12 cents per share, from $3.5 billion, or 50 cents a year ago. Year-ago results include a $2.1-billion gain from the sale of investments. Sales fell to $6.3 billion, down 24 percent from the year-ago $8.3 billion.

The results came at the high end of the range of per-share estimates of 8 cents to 13 cents expected by 24 analysts surveyed by Thomson Financial/First Call. The mean per-share forecast was for net income excluding one-time costs of 10 cents.

Following the announcement, Intel's shares were slightly lower in after-hours trading on Instinet at $29.67 from their Tuesday close of $29.90. The shares have tumbled from a record high of $75.81 in late August of 2000, when demand first started to slow in the high-tech sector and others.

Including the acquisition-related costs, Intel had second-quarter net income of $196 million, or 3 cents a share.

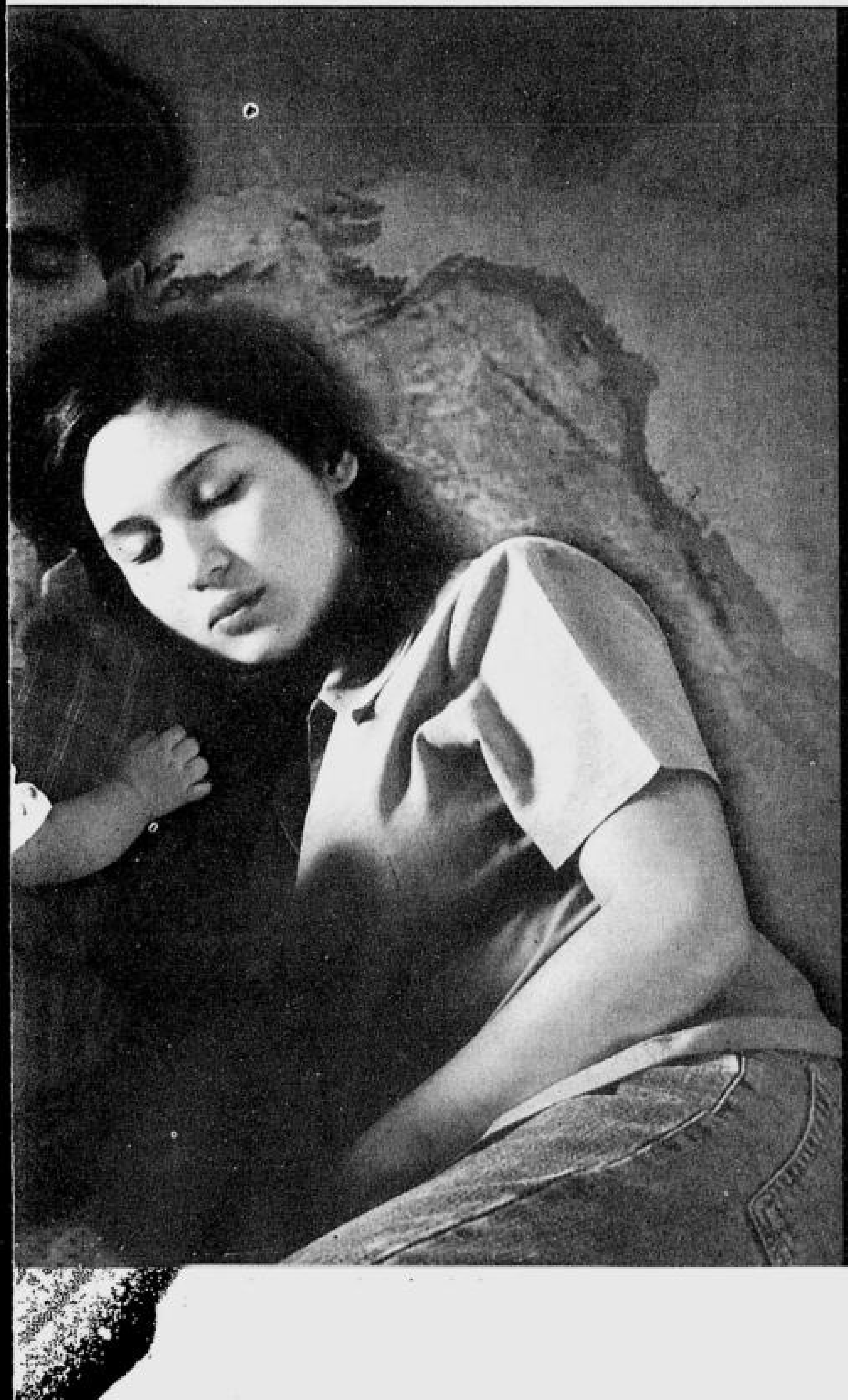
The results could have been worse were it not for the company's microprocessor shipments, which came in higher than Intel had expected, chief financial officer Andy Bryant said in an interview.

"We actually saw microprocessor unit shipments grow by about 6 percent sequentially," in the second quarter, Bryant said—quite a bit higher than seasonal norms. "This gives us confidence that the stronger seasonal second half that we typically experience will happen."

At the same time, average selling prices for its Pentium and Celeron chips declined, and will continue to do so in the third quarter, Bryant said on a conference call.

"They set a pretty high bar for themselves in terms of the third quarter," said Lehman Bros. analyst Dan Niles. "Some of the numbers they gave are hard to reconcile with the data we're getting from the PC vendors."

Microprocessor shipments for both AMD and Intel were up sequentially in the second quarter, while some such as Compaq Computer Corp. lowered second-quarter forecasts, citing a weak commercial and consumer PC market. This could suggest inventory is building among customers, which Intel said wasn't the case. *Reuters*



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Coca-Cola Enterprises to cut jobs

ATLANTA—Coca-Cola Enterprises, the world's largest Coke bottler, said Tuesday it was cutting 2,000 jobs—about 3 percent of its worldwide workforce—to streamline its North American operations.

The company said it expected to save $80 million to $100 million from the cuts, beginning next year.

Coca-Cola owns about 40 percent of Coke Enterprises.

The job cuts came as Atlanta-based Coke Enterprises reported second-quarter net income of $114 million, or 27 cents per share, down from $122 million, or 29 cents per share, during the same period last year. The results were 2 cents below the consensus forecast of analysts surveyed by Thomson Financial/First Call.

Coca-Cola Enterprises said weak pricing for Coke products contributed to its poor performance.

"Clearly, our year-to-date results are disappointing, and we are taking action to address the cost issues contributing to this performance," chief executive Lowry Kline said. "These actions are essential and reflect the realities of the current marketplace."

Coca-Cola Enterprises has about 57,000 North America employees and 10,000 in Europe. The cuts, which will include some attrition, will be only in North America. *AP*

Nissan sees US auto market flat

TOKYO—The head of Japan's Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. said Wednesday he expected the US auto market to stay flat over the next three years, while the domestic market would weather economic reforms pledged by the government.

"Our vision of the US market is that we don't think the market will go lower than where it is today," Nissan president and chief executive Carlos Ghosn said at an international automotive roundtable in Tokyo.

"We are planning on 2001, 2002, 2003 being three relatively flat years, around the level of 2000," he said, adding the growth rate in 2000 had been exceptional.

"But you need to know that we consider the overall level of the United States in 2001 to be a very good level. You can compete, and it is a very healthy market."

Ghosn said it would be hard to provide an outlook for Nissan's home market without first studying the details, timing and size of economic reform measures likely to be announced by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi after an election for parliament's Upper House later this month.

Koizumi's government had said its promised reforms would likely keep economic growth at bay for the next two to three years, leading to short-term rises in unemployment and corporate bankruptcies.

"Japan is probably the wild card," he said. "There will be an impact from the economic program on the market, no doubt about it. How big is very difficult to predict if you don't know what the plan is." *Reuters*

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Department of National Defense

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Office of the Secretary of National Defense (OSND) invites interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid for the procurement of the following firearms:

QTY	NOMENCLATURE	BUDGET
5 UNITS	Sub-machine gun, 9mm	P600,000.00
3 UNITS	Assault rifle cal. 5.56	P360,000.00
	TOTAL	**P960,000.00**

Bidders are requested to submit the following documents/requirements for pre-qualification on or before July 19, 2001 at 10:00 AM at the Procurement Branch, Office of the Administrative Services, DND, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, telephone number 911-8118.

1. SEC/DTI Registration
2. Articles of Incorporation/Partnership
3. Latest Business/License Permit (2000)
4. Audited Financial Statements (attach ITR) of the last two years
5. VAT Registration Certificate
6. List of clients for the last 2 years
7. License/permit issued by the Firearms & Explosives office, PNP

Inquiries for the details and particulars on Instructions to Bidders, bid documents, and other details shall also be provided during office hours at the Office of Administrative Services, OSND. A pre-bid conference shall be held on July 23, 2001 at 2:00 PM, DISG Conference Room, DND Compound, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of bid proposals and opening of bids will be on July 30, 2001 at 10:00 AM at the same venue.

The OSND reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality and award the contract to the bidder whose proposal is the lowest calculated responsive bid as evaluated by the OSND, Bids and Awards Committee (OSND BAC).

This invitation is also posted in the DBM Procurement Service website at www. procurementservice.org and the AFP website at www. armedforces.mil.ph. The public is likewise informed that henceforth, invitations to bid for procurements costing P2M and below shall be posted in the websites of the DBM Procurement Service and of the AFP website, in accordance with the Implementing Rules and Regulations of E.O. 262. Further, such ITBs shall also be posted at a conspicuous place in the premises of the DBM Procurement Service and the Department of National Defense (DND).

(Sgd.) **ATTY. RICARDO D. BLANCAFLOR**
Assistant Secretary
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – July 19 & 20, 2001)

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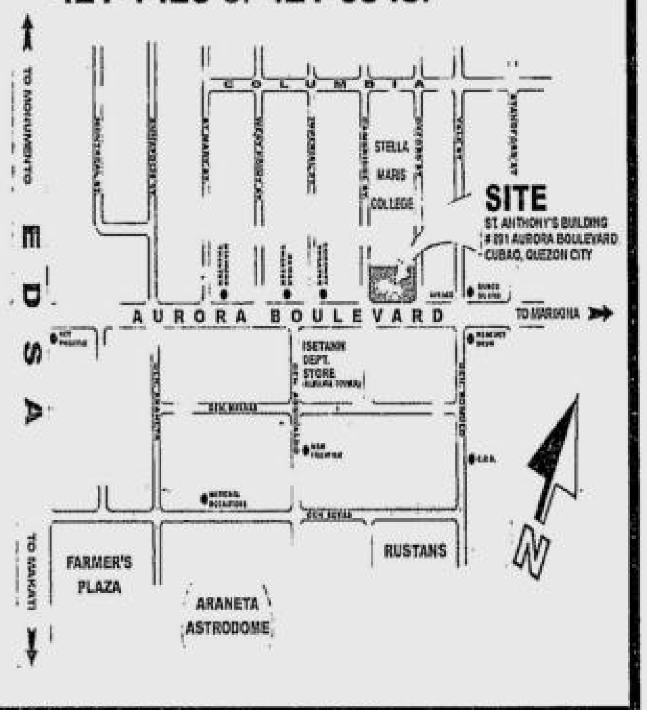

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

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are no longer connected with LTS Phils. Corporation since Feb. 1999 and Dec. 1999, respectively. Informations for violation of "BP 22 or the Bouncing Check Law" has been filed against them before the MTC Br. 1, San Fernando Pampanga and MTC Br. 37, Quezon City. , docketed as Criminal Case Nos. 00-0183 to 84 and 91282-89, respectively. Warrants for their arrest have been issued. For any information as to their whereabouts, please call the: PERSONAL COLLECTION
(a division of LTS PHILS. CORPORATION)
19-B Baler St., San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City
at tel. Nos. 928-1007, 372-9189 and 37200023 and contact **Erwin Doromal**, Credit & Collection Manager

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(National Agricultural and Fishery Council)
Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon
Tel. No. 928-87-41 to 65 local 516

Tender No. 24th RP-JFPP/2001/01 July 16, 2001

INVITATION TO BID

The National Agricultural and Fishery Council (NAFC) hereby invites sealed bids for the sale of 81,713 metric tons of Ammonium Sulphate fertilizer for **September 2001** to **March 2002** shipments.

Tender documents can be secured from the Bids and Awards Committee, NAFC, Apacible Hall, Department of Agriculture Bldg., Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City starting on **July 20, 2001.**

The pre bid conference shall be held on **July 27, 2001** at 2:00 p.m. at the NAFC Maynila Conference Room, 4th Floor, DA Building, Diliman, Quezon City.

Fully completed sealed bids should be submitted not later than 2:00 p.m. on **July 31, 2001.** Bids received after the scheduled time will not be accepted/entertained and will be returned unopened.

For details please contact Mr. Joseph de los Santos or Ms. Peachy Agustin at telephone nos. 928-19-66 or 929-82-34.

(Sgd.) **RICARDO A. VILLO, JR.**
Executive Director

(PDI – July 19 & 20, 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BIR invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for **2 units High-End Router for BIR Network Facility.**

Checklist of requirements for application of eligibility and bid documents are available for issuance on **July 23, 2001** to prospective bidders at BAC-IT Secretariat Office, Room 306, RCC Building, BIR-NOB Compound, BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

The BIR BAC-IT assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any excuse or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid and reserves the right to reject any or all bids and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **VICTOR G. BORROMEO**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee for Information Technology (BAC-IT) Resources

(PDI – July 19, 2001)

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INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

CONSTRUCTION OF FOUNDATIONS; ERECTION OF TOWERS; INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING LIGHTNING PROTECTION SYSTEMS; AND, COMMISSIONING OF TWENTY FIVE (25) LIGHTHOUSES IN VARIOUS SITES COVERED BY THE MARITIME SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, PHASE III (MSIP III)

The Department of Transportation and Communications, Philippine Coast Guard - Project Management Office (DOTC PCG-PMO) through the MSIP III - Bid and Award Committee (MSIP III - BAC) is inviting General Contractors for the aforementioned Project.

APPROVED BUDGET : 20.185 MILLION PESOS
SOURCE OF FUNDING : LOCAL COUNTERPART FUNDS (GOP)

The scope of works cover civil, tower erection, electrical installation and other miscellaneous works to complete the Project. Prospective bidders should have valid license and classification issued by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB), with the following particulars:

Category and Classification	IAC Registration
Category "A"	Range: At least Medium "B"
Classification: General Engineering	Kind of Project: Ports, Harbor and Offshore Engineering

Pre-qualification Documents shall be available for issuance to interested bidders for free from 18 to 24 July 2001 at the address given above.

However, the Bid Documents, Plans and Drawings will only be issued to eligible bidders upon the payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (PHP 5,000.00) at the Cashier's Office, PCG-PMO.

The deadline for the submission of duly accomplished Pre-qualification Statements shall be on 26 July 2001, 10:00 AM at PCG-PMO.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE : 06 AUGUST 2001
SUBMISSION/OPENING OF BID PROPOSAL : 27 AUGUST 2001

The MSIP III - BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **WILFREDO M. TRINIDAD**
Undersecretary and Chairman,
MSIP III - BAC

(PDI – July 19, 23 & 24, 2001)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)** invites all major Telecommunication Companies to submit sealed bids for the agency's subscription of Frame Relay Service for Wide Area Network Communication Facility to be installed at Central Office and fourteen (14) Regional Offices. The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

July 23-25, 2001	- Issuance of List of Pre-qualification Requirements
July 31, 2001	- Deadline of submission of pre-qualification documents
August 6-7, 2001	- Issuance of bid documents
August 9, 2001 (10:00 AM)	- Pre-bidding conference
August 17, 2001 (9:15 - 10:00 AM)	- Submission of bid proposals
(10:15 AM)	· Opening of bid proposals

Pre-qualification forms and requirements can be secured from and submitted to PBAC Secretariat, ODAFA, 7th Floor, Matimyas Building, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City. Bidding documents may likewise be secured from PBAC Secretariat and the same shall be issued to pre-qualified bidders upon payment of P2,000.00 non-refundable fee.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY/INFORMALITY OF THE BIDS RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(Sgd.) **EDGAR S. ASUNCION**
Deputy Administration and Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – July 19, 20 & 23, 2001)

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

NFHFI DIALOGUE WITH AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

The executive committee of the National Federation of Hog Farmers Inc. (NFHFI) led by National chair Nemesio G. Co (seated, extreme right) met with Department of Agriculture officials, Secretary Leonardo Q. Montemayor (seated beside Co) and Undersecretary Cesar Drilon (seated, second from left). The dialogue covered a wide range of topics and livestock concerns. Shown are NFHFI executive committee officers and members. Seated are Manuel J. Lao, president, Rizal Hog Farmers Association; Drilon; presiding chair Albert R. T. Lim, Jr, president of Negros Occidental Hog Farmers Association; Montemayor, and Co. Standing are Dr. Joel F. Ramos, president, Bulacan Livestock Producers Integrated Group; Eliseo S. Yu, treasurer, Rizal Hog Farmers Association; Lawyer Laureano L. Abesamis, corporate secretary and general legal counsel, past president, Cavite Livestock and Poultry Farmers MPC; Dr. Rodolfo C. Custodio, president, Pangasinan Agricultural Venture Primary MPC; Victorio Lo, president, Iloilo Hog Raisers MPC; Antonio C. Tomlin, auditor, past president, Fil-Cantonese Hog Farmers Association and NFHFI executive director Raymund S. Siguenza

RCP CONTRACT SIGNING

Refractories Corporation of the Philippines (RCP), the country's only manufacturer of refractory fibericks, recently signed a refractory management systems and supply contract with Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc. (BSII). Under the agreement, RCP will share its technical expertise to enhance BSII's productivity through optimal use of the refractory lining. Shown during the contract signing are (from left) RCP president Tomas Alcantara, BSII president Victor del Rosario and RCP general manager Paulino Garcia Jr. RCP is a member of the Alcantara group, one of the country's largest and most diversified conglomerates.

Ariel tree-planting honors women

ENVIRONMENT-SAFE Ariel laundry detergent is set to further honor women with its newest promotion, "Luntiang Pilipinas Forest Tree-Planting Activity". The promo is open to all Filipinos who wish to honor the woman closest to their hearts – their wife, mother, daughter, best friend, teacher, aunt, girlfriend or lola. It also gives them the opportunity to do their share in the preservation and protection of the environment.

"Luntiang Pilipinas" is a nationwide tree-growing program chaired by Senator Loren Legarda-Leviste, a United Nations Environment Program awardee for her work in the protection of the environment. To join, interested parties must tune in to any "Luntiang Pilipinas-Ariel Forest Park" participating radio station (DZXL, DWKC, DZRH, DYES, DZMB, DZBB, DZAR) from July 16 to 21. On the radio DJ's mark, listeners must call 894-3955 or 1-800-188-8008 (toll free number for those outside Metro Manila), give their name, the name of the honoree and a short explanation why she is special.

The names of the honorees will be announced via a print ad to be published July 28. Successful callers and the special women in their lives will be invited to a tree-planting ceremony with Sen. Legarda-Leviste and the Ariel Group on July 31, 9 to 11 a.m. in Silang, Cavite.

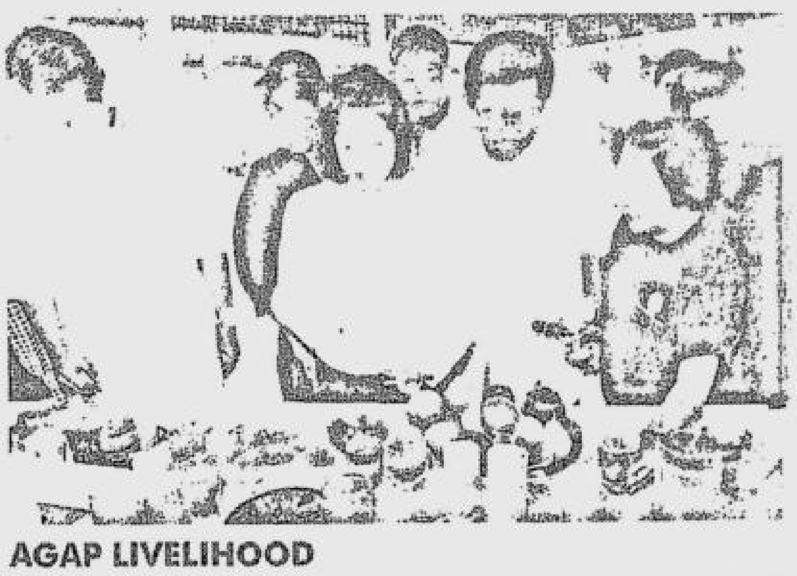
BITS Clips

Netafim holds Greenhouse Technology Seminar and plant tour

NETAFIM Philippines, a leader in agricultural technology from Israel, will mount a comprehensive seminar on greenhouse technology and demonstration farm tour on July 24. To be held at the Dusit Hotel Nikko, 8:30 a.m., the seminar will feature thorough discussions on greenhouse technology, applied agri-technology, farming equipment and hardware, and project evaluation. Set to speak during the seminar are Netafim's top executives. Immediately following the seminar is a site tour to Netafim's demonstration farm in Tagaytay. For inquiries and more information, call Netafim at 6388770 to 73.

Cebu Pacific's Summit Club turns one

CEBU Pacific Air's frequent flyer program, Summit Club, is celebrating its first birthday with more rewards in store for travelers. Summit Club is offering an anniversary treat for both new and existing members between June 20 and Aug. 31. Summit Club members who fly with Cebu Pacific within this period will automatically be credited double PremiuMiles, bringing them closer to a free ticket or that choice merchandise item. Those interested to join the club will receive a sign-up bonus of 500 PremiuMiles provided they submit their application forms within the promo period. In addition, one signed up, new members who fly during this time will also get double PremiuMiles. The Summit Club member service center is available to entertain any inquiry from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., Mondays to Fridays, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends and holidays, on its toll free line 1-800-1888-2582.



AGAP LIVELIHOOD

Ate Glo Against Poverty (Agap) signatories National Housing Authority (NHA) general manager lawyer Edgardo Pamintuan (third from left). Technology Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC) director general Federico Laxa (left) and Department of Budget and Management (DBM) secretary and Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) chair Emilia Boncodin (second from left) view quality samples of aroma candles and laundry soap made by 140 participants of the recently concluded skills training workshop for resettled families in Kasiglahan Village I at Rodriguez, Rizal. The Agap skills training program will continue to benefit beneficiaries of NHA resettlement projects nationwide aimed at increasing their income sustainability.

IXUS DEMONSTRATION

Ramon Arteficio (right), EVP Canon Marketing Phils. Inc. demonstrates to GMA's 'Unang Hirit' reporter Thyssen Cruz (left) the new Digital IXUS 300 during the brand's media launch held recently at the Bistro Remedios, Malate. The camera is but one of three models that can print directly to the CP10 Card Photo Printer without a computer.

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

NFA distributes soil testing kits

SOME 162 soil testing kits have been distributed to corn farmers in Koronadal, South Cotabato by the National Food Authority under the government's Corn Development Fund Program (CDFP) to assist the logistical needs of the farmers, NFA administrator Anthony R.A. Abad reported.

The 164 farmer recipients, members of 55 farmers organizations (FOs) in the area, attended the weeklong soil testing kit seminar conducted by NFA in coordination with the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) before receiving the kits.

According to Abad, the CDFP is being undertaken by the food agency in support of the Department of Agriculture's thrust under Secretary Leonardo Q. Montemayor to extend assistance to local corn farmers in the form of soil test kits and refills.

The soil testing kits may be used by the corn farmers in assessing the soil conditions in their locality for increased productivity and income. The kit consists of a bag, 10 bottles containing chemicals and four test tubes for soil samples which can determine the type and quantity of fertilizer to treat the condition of the soil in the farm.

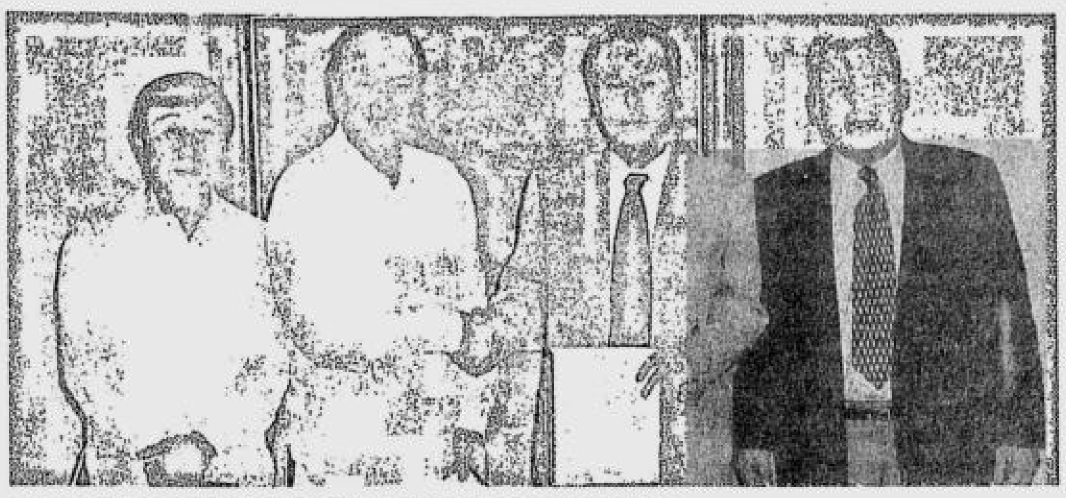
Distribution of the kits to the corn producers is stipulated in a memorandum of agreement between NFA, represented by Abad and the different farmers' cooperatives in South Cotabato.

The program's target beneficiaries are the corn FOs in three areas of Regions 10 and 11, which are duly accredited under the NFA's institutional procurement program. Palay farmers in said areas, including non-FO members may also avail of the services of the soil testing centers to enhance their productivity.

The occasion of the kit distribution was graced by NFA officials led by Abad, deputy administrator Gregorio Y. Tan, Jr. regional director Danilo Pastrana, extension assistant director Dario Garcia as well as local officials of the Department of Agriculture and the BSWM.

Abad stressed during the distribution ceremonies the NFA's commitment and support to the overall efforts of government through the DA to extend all possible assistance to grains farmers for food security particularly in the basic staples.

The farmer recipients lauded the NFA's concrete help to their production efforts as expressed during the affair.



NIC-JAPAN TAKES OVER AFCI FROM ANSCOR

On May 30, Nissho Iwai Corporation (NIC) of Japan entered into an agreement with A. Soriano Corporation (Anscor), Newco Inc. and A. Soriano Corporation Domestic Retirement Trust Fund (the "Anscor Group") for the sale by the Anscor Group of its shares in AFC Fertilizer and Chemicals Inc. (Afci), the country's second largest fertilizer manufacturing company producing the Atlas brand of fertilizers, to NIC. Upon consummation of the sale between the Anscor Group and NIC, Afci will join the NIC fertilizer group along with Thai Central Chemicals Company in Thailand and Japan Vietnam Fertilizer in Vietnam. With their combined capabilities of over 2 million metric tons of NP-NPK fertilizers, the NIC fertilizer group will become the biggest fertlizer manufacturer in Southeast Asia. Shown during the agreement-signing are (from left) Takashi Ikeda, Afci director; Ernest K. Cuyegkeng, Anscor senior vice president and CFO; Yasunori Takagi, NIC Philippines senior general manager, and Antonio M. Coska, Jr., Afci president.

PEARL HARBOR-RAYBAN RAFFLE DRAW

SM's senior AVP for leisure Ric D. Camaligan, Rayban's product marketing assistant manager Angie Dacanay, and DTI representative Renato Viana, draw the 20 lucky winners of Rayban Eyewear and Rayban limited edition watches, bags and caps in SM Cinema's "Pearl Harbor-Rayban Raffle" promotion. Among the winners were Richard Tanglao, Noel Gatchalian, Marietta Macaraig, Rechill Dongon, Ernanie Escoto, Richard Pasillos, Liberato Mate, Bliselda Quilente, Rolly Prieto, and Thomas Geronimo C. Bote. The recently concluded raffle promo gave moviegoers the chance to win Rayban limited edition items for every two "Pearl Harbor" movie tickets purchased from any SM Cinema branch.

English teachers called to confab

THE ENGLISH Department of the Ateneo de Manila University is calling on all English teachers to submit papers and participate in the 6th English in Southeast Asia Conference to be held on Nov. 29 to Dec. 1 at its Loyola Heights Quezon City campus.

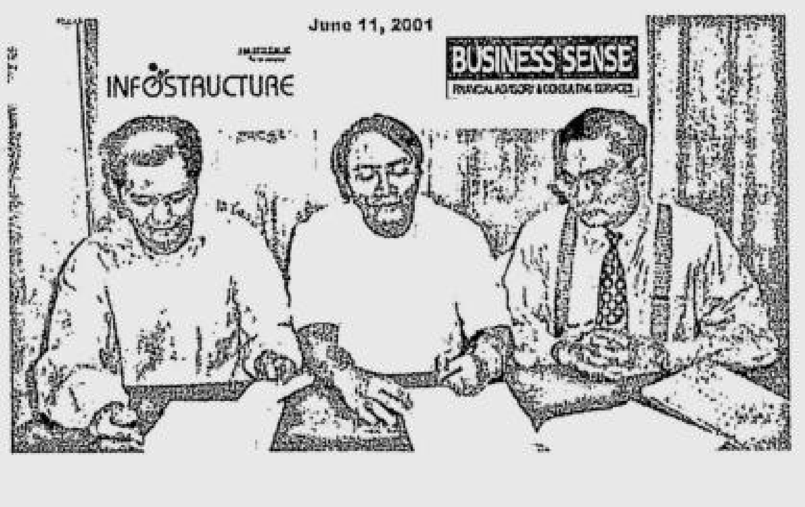
"Learning to Teach, Teaching to Learn: Issues, Options and Directions in Language and Literature Education" is this years's conference theme. Discussions will revolve around the politics of teaching English, the Southeast Asian teacher of English, English in a multilingual environment, curriculum or syllabus design, instructional materials and classroom practice.

Keynote speakers will be Christopher Brumfit of the University of Southampton, United Kingdom, Edna Z. Manlapaz of the Ateneo de Manila University and Malachi Edwin Verhamani of the University of Putra Malaysia.

The organizers urge interested English teachers to confirm their attendance as early as possible to have ample time to prepare for the important conference. Further information is available from conference director Ma. Luz C. Vilches at the Ateneo Center for English Language Teaching, Loyola School of Humanities, Admu, Loyola Heights, Quezon City 1108. She can also be reached at (632) 426-4322 (telefax) and at esea@admu.edu.ph or mvilch@admu.edu.ph.

AVON MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE WINNERS

Top franchise managers of Avon Cosmetics Inc. were recently rewarded with an all-expense paid trip to Hong Kong for achieving their sales goals for 2000. These ladies, winners of Avon's Millennium Challenge, were also accompanied by top Avon executives led by general manager Malu C. Dy Buncio (last row, second from left). Other top franchise managers went on trips to Sydney, Australia and Singapore. Avon is the world's leading direct seller of beauty and related products. It markets to women in 135 countries through its 3 million Avon representatives.



BSI PARTNERSHIP

Business Sense Inc. (BSI) recently entered into a value-adding and consulting infopartnership with Infostructure. Under the agreement, BSI will tap Infostructure products in its HR/payroll outsourcing services. Present in the signing were Nilo Poso, Infostructure CEO; Henry Ong, BSI president and general manager; and Jerry Cruzabra, BSI CEO.

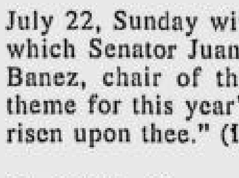
CANESTEN AWARDED PRINT AD OF 2000

Bayer Philippines, makers of Canesten Foot Powder, the most prescribed anti-fungal brand, recently received the Print Ad of 2000 Award from the Creative Guild for its 'Alipunga' advertisement. Bayer was also given a certificate for breakthrough in category for the Canesten 'Foot' TV ad. The team who produced the TV and print ads is composed of BBDO/Guerrero Ortega's creative director David Guerrero; art director David Ferrer; copywriter Dino Ferrer and Grace Abanador, assistant product manager of Canesten. Above, Dr. Reinhard Shellner, general manager of Bayer Philippines (center), receives the award from Golda Aguilar, account director of BBDO. With them is Gerry Siquijor, group product manager of Bayer Philippines.

Directing a TV ad, take 2

THERE'S a difference between playing with kids and interacting with themm, and understanding well enough to educate them. On-Line Video Workshops invites you to a two-day workshop where participants will learn how to interact, understand and educate young minds through one of today's most powerful media – television. The workshop "What Works for Kids" will be facilitated by Data Tolentino, supervising producer of GMA-7's multi-awarded children's TV show, "5 and Up". Rounding up the lecture series is a course on directing a TV ad by one of the country's most respected TVC directors Sockie Fernandez. "What Work for Kids" is slated for July 21 and 28 (Saturdays) at the Roofdeck of Future Point Plaza 1, 112 Panay Avenue, Quezon City. For inquiries call Mavic at 412-7895, 412-9312 or 412-7891.

United Church of Manila 77th year



BANEZ

THE UNITED Church of Manila (UCM) at Claro M. Recto corner S. Loyola, Manila is celebrating this week its 77th Anniversary. The celebration started on July 14, Saturday, with a sportsfest while on July 21, Saturday at 6:30 p.m., the UCM Sunshine Playhouse will present "Ngunit Hindi Ko Na Sila Mga Anak Ngayon!" written by Dr. Severino Montano and directed by Cornellio "Unyet" B. Salcedo at the UCM main sanctuary. The celebration will culminate on July 22, Sunday with a joint worship service at 8:30 a.m. during which Senator Juan Flavier will bring God's message. Taclin V. Banez, chair of the UCM church council, announced that the theme for this year's celebration is "Arise, shine! for the Lord is risen upon thee." (Isaiah 60:1).

British Council's study consultation

THE BRITISH Council Philippines is pleased to present another international study opportunity to all students. Calling the attention of all interested to pursue undergraduate degrees in accounting, business and management, IT, e-commerce, computer science, engineering and post-graduate MBA programs. World-renowned University of Nottingham degrees are now made more affordable. The University of Nottingham, Malaysia is slated to make a presentation on July 20, 6:30 p.m. at the Hotel Intercontinental Makati. Anita Chakrabaty, the university representative, offers this free presentation/consultation to potential students, parents, teachers and the general public. The University of Nottingham in Malaysia is a full and integral part of the University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom. For more information, call Dianne Siozon at 914-1011 to 14 or email Dianne.Siozon@britishcouncil.org.ph.

PNU BATCH '51 GOLDEN JUBILEE

Class of 1951 graduates of the Philippine Normal College (now Philippine Normal University), will celebrate their golden jubilee concurrently with the centennial anniversary of the PNU this year. Shown above are the coordinators of the celebrations (seated, from left) Priscilla Gonzales-Avenir, PRO; Adoracion Mariano-Acuna, president and Angie Diaz, vice president. Standing (from left) are Teresa Roman Cordero, general coordinator; Flor Banag-Santarin, secretary; Dr. Norma Marquez-Abracia, immediate past president of the PNUAA; Lydia Coronel, coordinator; Buenviaje Panganiban-Ferrer, coordinator for US-based alumni and Priscilla Maligaya-Ferrolino, treasurer. All Class 1951 graduates are enjoined to attend the jubilee affair. Call any of the following, 374-4354 (Angie), 521-6612 (Flor) or 532-7064 (Adoracion Acuna).

S&R PRICE CELEBRATES REOPENING

S&R Price Membership Shppping Warehouse recently reopened with a street party complete with a rock band and free food for everyone. Throngs of member-shoppers trooped to the S&R Price Open House for an afternoon of shopping and to express their support for the membership shopping pioneer. Rock band Wolfgang was invited to play a [illegible] street party that kicked off the weekend-long celebrations. Thousands of member-shoppers were also treated to a variety of delicious free food and drinks, as shown above.

LEADERSHIP TURNOVER AT THAI

Thai Airways International (THAI) recently introduced its new general manager for the Philippines and Guam, Chertchai Methanayanonda (left) with outgoing GM Sakchai Srongprapa. The turnover of the baton of leadership was held as part of a colorful agents awards night, dubbed MTG Awards, fashioned after the funky MTV Rock Awards, "TG" being the Airline's code. Attended by over 500 guests composed of THAI's travel agents, cargo agents, corporate accounts, friends from the government, the diplomatic corps and the press, the fun-filled affair was hosted by popular VJs Mo Twister and Shaan Bermudez and featured performances from Powerdance and the Divas.

MOTORING

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Streets are safer since we race away from them

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

RACE clinics, especially if manned by rally veterans and driving experts from motoring organizations, can be the best teachers of basic driving techniques. Instead of waiting for the government to instill some "revolutionary changes" in its land transport policies, a leading auto manufacturer has formed its own race clinic and racing competition (time trial). Its objective: to provide a venue for the competitive driving spirit and spread some driving sense into its participants' heads at the same time. The race clinic, and racing, however ironic it sounds, made us tamer drivers on city streets.

A CLEAN sweep for Team Supersonic Blue champions in the 1.3 Lxi and the 1.5 EXi class of the Honda City Type Z Media Challenge. From left is Kotse.com's Andre Palma, the writer, Raymond Tribdino and Drive Online's Eric Soriano.

The City Type Z Media Challenge has been held for three years. The training has been directed to the primary disseminators of public information—media reporters and journalists.

For the 2001 season, theoretical inputs, practical driving and competition were rolled into one in a three-day period. Contrary to what you may think, this is not about doing stunts, flooring the gas pedals or outpacing each other. These weren't what made us better drivers.

The irony of racing (in time trials, at least) is that in order to drive fast, we were told to drive slow. We felt this maxim most in approaching corners as we visualized our turning "apex" when we accelerated and decelerated, when we under or oversteered, and when we performed handbrake turns and crossover techniques. Of course, we also had to know more of the cars we were to use and "abuse."

This particular type of Honda City Type Z was modified just for the occasion. The seatbelts are four-point (as opposed to the regular three-point) and the entire car is supported with a roll cage. We were made to wear helmets and were told to temper our hunger for speed with proper techniques and patience.

The competition was composed of TV, print, radio and online broadcast journalists divided into nine teams. The first and second legs were held May 26 and June 9. After the final leg on July 14, this writer had her perfect birthday gift.

The top three teams were awarded at the Manila Harbour Centre. Team Supersonic Blue with Andre Palma (kotse.com), Tessa Salazar (INQUIRER), Eric Soriano (drive.com.ph) and Raymond Tribdino (INQUIRER) won top honors with a total time of 4:25.00 in the 1.3 Lxi category, and 4:25.75 for the 1.5 EXi. In second place was Team Sunburst Yellow with Deo Macalma (dzRH), Shirley Flores (BusinessWorld), Aaron Favila (Associated Press) and Ferdie Baja (dzEC). Their team time was 4:30.16 (1.3 LXi) and 4:31.24 (1.5 EXi). Rounding up the podium finishers was the Team Fresh Copper Metallic of Lester Dizon (Gadgets Magazine), Andy Sevilla (Sports Weekly), Warren Castillo and Beth Sanchez (BusinessWorld) with time totals of 4:47.84 and 4:32.12 in the 1.3 LXi and 1.5 EXi categories, respectively.

Two other teams earned championship points. Team Passion Orange (Matt Mallari of Motoring Today; Willie Caballes, Manila Bulletin; Angelo Almonte, dzMM; Bill Velasco, Atomic Sports) was fourth place in the 1300 class.

Team Cypress Green (Bernard de Lara, Tempo; Raul Virtudazo, dzBB; May Baetiong, BusinessWorld; Jay Ortega, Gadgets Magazine) was fifth place in the 1300 and fourth in the 1500 class.

The best times were posted by three drivers. In the 1.3 LXi category, Raymond Tribdino (Team Supersonic Blue, INQUIRER) finished first with 1:24.64. Lester Dizon (Team Fresh Copper Metallic, Gadgets Magazine) was a close second with 1:25.50. Eugene Limpin (Team Iced Teal Blue, Tempo) was third, clocking 1:26.88. In the 1.5 category, Dizon finished first with 1:23.10, Tribdino finished second with 1:24.46 and Limpin third with 1:26.22.

The other teams which competed in the fourth season of the Honda City Media Challenge were Team Formula Red (Raul Promeda, Motoring Today; Dodo Catacutan, Manila Bulletin; Joey Boiser, drive.com.ph; Junep Ocampo, Philippine Star); Team Nighthawk Black (Ferman Lao, kotse.com; Andy Vital, dzRH; Jess Reyes, K-Lite; Aida Sevilla Mendoza, INQUIRER); Team Taffeta White (Conrad Carino, carz.ph; Benj Ngo, autoindustriya.com; Tim Alipalo, Associated Press; Jayson Jimenez, Auto Review); and Team Iced Teal Blue (G Dadlani, autoindustriya.com; Eugene Limpin, Tempo; Miranda de Quiros, ABS-CBN; Pinggot Zulueta, Manila Bulletin).

The fourth season of the City Media Challenge was presented in partnership with Caltex Vortex and Havoline Energy. Sponsors included Bridgestone and Firestone tires, Nodalo's Trading, AITECH and the Manila Harbour Centre. This annual event is organized by ADBM Resources, Activity Asia Association and Roadwise Motoring School.

The formal awarding ceremony of the City Media Challenge is set for Aug. 22. Imagine what race clinics and dirt trials could do to other drivers in a country where driving is taken for granted.

FORD LYNX 2001

Beauty is only metal sheet deep

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR AND RAYMOND B. TRIBDINO

IF you want to know what "solid feel" and "utter reliability" in a front wheel drive sedan is, get a Ford Lynx.

Grab the Lynx by its neck and hurl it down some open stretch after immersing it in metro traffic. What do you get? Terrific grip and chuckability you wouldn't expect in a reincarnated Mazda sedan. The sharp and handsome Lynx is not appreciated by many. It's European, yes, but it really isn't stunning. And it does not sell in the numbers Toyota and Honda usually rack up. But does a best selling book mean it is any good?

The range topping Lynx Ghia was given some minor changes for 2001. The upgrades include leather seats, revised wheels and so on. These cosmetic add-ons are not as important as the top level engine and suspension performance you can squeeze out of it.

Satisfying performance

Raymond: Engine power is rated at 118 ps at 5,500 rpm, well within the range of most cars in its class. Except for the VTEC, which cycles in much earlier, producing more power throughout the rev range, only the Lynx can boast of a continuous and rather steady power and torque band. It is perky but not snappy and is happiest when pushed. Almost all the torque is attained at 2,500 rpm. Though it maxes out at 145 Nm (Newton meters, if you please) at 4,000 rpm. Direct Electronic Shift Control aids the 4-speed auto gearbox and does its job very well. That new-fangled "slope-control technology" gives the whole package a safer side to it but what is most satisfying with the Lynx Ghia is its ability to drive like a manual (well, almost) when you push it.

Tessa: Stepping on the pedals up the northbound bridge just after the Filinvest Alabang toll exit, I was expecting a few seconds before the automatic transmission exerted its power and provide full force. I was mistaken. Going up on that bridge, I wasn't shortchanged on power; no exaggeration here.

Really safe sedan

Raymond: The triple H body structure creates a rigid inner safety cage that insulates passengers from the forces in a collision. But I suspect the gusset points of the structure also add to body rigidity (after seeing the computer-generated cross-section map, I am sure) which translates to better handling and suspension performance. A lower hood profile and really thin A pillars provide better frontal vision.

The tall tail section does hamper rear sighting a bit. Naturally there are airbags, and ELRs and stuff like that. But feeling solid does make it feel really safe.

Tessa: Oh, okay. If you say so. I mean, I'm not gonna crash this just to find out.

Not too nice outside

Raymond: Beauty is only sheet metal deep, so says one of my favorite VW ads of decades ago. Same applies to the Lynx. It may not have the visual appeal the market wants, but it is definitely not ugly. The looks grow on you. In a market that values styling a notch over performance, however, that is a problem. Thank heavens, Ford dropped those anodized platinum-effect alloy wheels in favor of normally coated ones.

The previous alloys peeled off when scraped and are not as durable.

Tessa: Although car enthusiasts say there's not much more to dress up on this car, I personally feel the looks, particularly the Lynx's slightly upturned rear end, is enticingly sexy. My gal pals liked the Lynx's back, too. It is very distinct and elegant. There's this saying "*Maganda na, huwag lang haharap,*" that's not the case with the Lynx. The front is a looker, too. I can use this for my wedding, and go straight to the honeymoon with it!

Great inside

Raymond: As if to literally prove the "beauty is not" adage, the Lynx overflows with nice interior touches. You won't find anything Mazda in the Lynx. Despite their common parentage, the Ford sedan is put together so well, it's uncanny. The car's interior finish is really good and very thoughtful. No rattling glove boxes or center consoles. No empty plastic pieces on the dashboard and around the doors. Really clean stitching all around. Colors are well selected and matched and ergonomics is fantastic. I did feel that the radio buttons were a bit tiny and the gear lever slightly notchy. Everything else, however, gets very high grades. And by the way, the same goes for almost everything that can be motivated by an electric motor; windows, door locks, side mirrors.

Tessa: Love the all-power control gadgets inside. I wouldn't have to worry about securing me and my precious passengers in.

Seriously underrated, the Ford Lynx deserves a bigger slice of the market than it has now. If someone can get a finger on an eraser and pencil the uncommon lines by the headlights and taillights, surely the Lynx will sell better.

So good is it that we give it a 9 out of 10. Only one point is eaten away by the love-it-or-hate-it exterior styling. But appearance is worth so little when you value real safety and real performance.

AAP wants access to tollways

BY RAYMOND B. TRIBDINO

MEMBERS of the Automobile Association of the Philippines are requesting for a reconsideration on an earlier decision made by the Philippine National Construction Co. disallowing the AAP tow trucks in the South Luzon Expressway to service the AAP members. Last year, the AAP already requested exemption from the rule stating that the expressway should be open to all vehicles considered safe and roadworthy.

The decision penned months ago by the PNCC, and reaffirmed recently through a letter to the AAP cites the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IIR) governing the use of both the North and South Expressways.

Under Article III, Sec. 3 of the IRR, "the following vehicles are not allowed on the expressway: vehicles being towed except those being removed from the expressway." This clearly means that vehicles being towed from one point outside the expressway, say Calamba to Alabang, or Mecauayan to Balintawak, cannot use the expressway, but rather peripheral, service or access roads.

In the case of vehicles coming from the North, this would be MacArthur Highway. Vehicles coming from the South must use the Maharlika Highway then exit to the Sucat and Bicutan service roads leading into the metropolis.

On paper, there seems to be no problem with this until one realizes the traffic densities and average road widths along these areas. Towing an average sized vehicle through the South Expressway will only require one straight trip. When passing through Calamba, then Cabuyao to Sta. Rosa into Biñan then into San Pedro toward Alabang requires 14 right turns and five left turns. Along the way, one encounters heavy traffic at several choke points, not to mention the stop and go antics of tricycles and jeepneys.

Not only will a tow truck pulling a damaged car cause heavy traffic inside already congested areas, other vehicles also pose traffic hazards to it.

A well-placed source inside the PNCC, who declined to be identified told the INQUIRER that one of the possible reasons for the ban is the business generated by accredited towing services. "People in touch with these towing companies fear the loss of business because they know that the towing (operations) is quite lucrative in both the north and south ends of the expressway."

The same source further points out that he does not see the point in disallowing the AAP tow trucks into the expressway to service members and said the PNCC should open its mind to finding a mutually beneficial solution to the problem.

"It is the obligation of the PNCC to carry out the guidelines stipulated in the IRR, but it should also be open to modifications, because that rule was made in 1976."

But AAP director Sergio Isada Jr. said "AAP tow trucks will not service nonmembers, we are simply not mandated to do so." Another PMA official also said that "the only business we will take away are those from our members, and that is a tiny portion of their income because most AAP members have well-maintained cars, and towing is always an exception, rather than the rule."

The same IRR also disallows motorcycles, bicycles and tricycles as well as dilapidated vehicles, those without working taillights and headlights, smoke belchers, slow-moving vehicles on the fast lane. Cargo trucks and buses on the outside lane and persons standing, stopping, walking or running along the length of the highway.

Problem is, according to a traffic expert, "every day you see owner jeeps and slow-moving cars hogging the outside lane. Then you'll see vehicles using the road shoulders to overtake. A smoke belcher into your lane. Followed by an empty ambulance with its sirens on. Frequently a motorcycle-riding PNCC cop piles through the fast lane, then zigzags his way around the slower moving traffic. At night you share the road with trucks illegally driving down the fast lane. To top it off, pedestrians casually walk by the roadside just before the Canlubang exit, many crossing to the Calamba side what ever time of day.

Isada also said that PMA tow trucks are designed exclusively to tow vehicles, unlike the many of the converted trucks used by the PNCC-accredited towing companies. "These truck were imported from the United States and were built, not converted, especially for towing. Some are equipped with hydraulic tire locks capable of lifting 4 metric tons and cruise at the minimum 60 kph speed limit.

"These same trucks are allowed by the US government on their freeways," Isada continues "and their roadworthiness inspection systems are much, much higher than ours. Our trucks are not merely pulling vehicles."

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Those humps; cheers to DJ Alarcon

FULL TANK

Al S. Mendoza

IF you can't paint yellow lines on those humps, why build them at all?

Humps are a big help insofar as safety is concerned. Villages need them to protect residents from speeding cars. But if they are not properly built, they become hazards to both life and limb.

They also encourage the destruction of cars. Many motorists fail to apply the brakes and hit humps because the humps are unmarked. Suspensions get broken, if not chassis twisted.

In cases of motorcycles and bicycles hitting humps, the cyclist usually suffers major injuries; sometimes, they are fatal.

There ought to be a law against the building of humps that are not properly painted with yellow lines.

City and municipal councils, wake up.

Better yet, barangay officials should take the lead. They should not rely on village association officials all the time.

* * *

I failed to attend the launch of the new Toyota Corolla Altis yesterday. Stuck in the office at 6:30 p.m., the time of launch. That's panic time for us, poor souls of the newspaper world, buddies.

Deadline time, folks.

But one man does not make a car launch. So, I'm sure it smoothly went well. Knowing the guys from Toyota—Raymond Rodriguez, Charlcon Alcala, Danny Isla and Ariel de Jesus—no kinks will ever happen. Include Ernie Evasco in the team and you'll have a super Toyota Team. Notwithstanding that Vince Socco is not around (he's happily detailed in Singapore as Toyota's top banana in the region).

* * *

One of Isuzu's babies, the Isuzu Fuego 4 x 4, is so lovable that you'll probably fall in love with it more than your other cars in the garage.

It doesn't ride like a car, but that's understandable. It's an off-road, mountain monster so why would it hum like a car, glide like a car?

But still, it will always be a nice ride in the city. Its looks are head-turners. The ride can compare in "machismo" with Ford's uppity Explorers and F-150s.

* * *

Now here's a letter that tugs at the heart.

Dear Mr. Mendoza,

Yours truly is the incumbent revenue district officer of Revenue District No. 34, Bureau of Internal Revenue, having jurisdiction over the districts of Paco, Pandacan, Sta. Ana and San Andres, Manila. Also under our supervision are the 73 nonlarge insurance companies of the Philippines.

In your "Full Tank" column dated July 5, 2001, you opened a pandora's box on supposed leakage of internal revenue collections from these fake insurance firms/agents, in the form of collection of documentary stamps from these fake policies. Taking the cue from your views, and as I am equally concerned also in raising more revenues for the government, I will coordinate closely with Gen. Edgardo Abenina of the Land Transportation Office and Mr. Pedro Benedito.

Thank you for this very valuable information and more power to you.

Very truly yours,
(Sgd.) ATTY. DAVID J. ALARCON
revenue district officer
BIR, Revenue Region No. 6, RDO #34 Paco-Pandacan-Sta. Ana
Manila

Thank you, Sir. Please inform me if you happen to corner some crooks in your turf. You have my support.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Whether you're driving in your village or at Edsa, buckle up. Accidents happen at the most unexpected moments.

The Exalta becomes grandeur

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

WHEN Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. (NMPI) gave the Sentra Series III a "make-over" and relaunched it last year as the luxuriously loaded Exalta, competitors laughed. But they stopped laughing when Exalta sales at Nissan dealers nationwide reached a total of 500 units a month. Now NMPI is expanding its successful formula with an even grander Exalta in the GS Grandeur, the top-of-the-line model of the latest edition of the Sentra.

The new Exalta looks bigger than last year's model, its contours are less boxy and more wedge-shaped. You realize that it's bigger when you sit in the driver's seat and have to lean far out to the left to reach the door handle in order to close the door. NMPI made the Exalta more spacious in keeping with its objective to build a compact car with the comfort and feeling of a medium-sized sedan. In other words, a sub M-class car.

Four new features inside the Exalta GS Grandeur make it stand out from last year's Exalta STA and other cars in the 1.6-liter class: a mobile pop-up VCD at the center of the dashboard, a heads-up digispeed (digital speedometer) display at the lower left side of the windshield, a digital rear distance warning system in the rear view mirror complementing the rear back-up sensor, and an audiovisual steering wheel switch by which the driver can adjust the radio tuner and audio volume. The latter feature was obviously inspired by European cars, as were the thicker side moldings and two-tone rear combination lamps. Like the Exalta STA, the Grandeur is equipped with a hands-free audiophone system, leather steering wheel with woodgrain trim, leather seats and wood paneling, retractable sunshades for the rear windows, seatback pockets (expandable, but not as wide as the STA's), dual center console box with lid and rear center armrest with cupholders. The other Euro touches are an electrical trunk opener switch at the left side of the dash, a seatback hanger, an overhead sunglass holder and sunvisors with illuminated vanity mirror. The Exalta GS comes with a two-way power sunroof but the Grandeur, because of its pop-up VCD, cannot be and is not so equipped.

The pop-up VCD at the center of the dash is controversial as it could distract the driver if the VCD is used while the car is in motion. While the brochure says that Nissan discourages the use of the VCD while driving, NMPI would have taken less risks by mounting two VCD-ready TV monitors on the headrests of the front seats instead.

The improper use of the pop-up VCD aside, the Grandeur is a safe vehicle, thanks to its driver-side airbag, ABS with electronic brakeforce distribution, 4-wheel disc brakes, speed-sensing door locks, rear back-up sensor, keyless entry and immobilizer.

When the topic switches to performance, remember that the original Exalta's accent was on innovation in style, luxury and convenience. This year, NMPI added a new dimension by equipping the new Exalta with a newly developed QG (Quality & Green) 1.6-liter engine that has VTC (valve timing control), a micro-finished design featuring minimal friction loss and the Cefiro VQ engine's EDI (electronic direct ignition) which reduces electric loss from distribution and improves fuel efficiency. However, the output is still the same as last year's: 116 ps/6,000 rpm max horsepower and 14.9 kg–m/4,000 rpm max torque. To hit 60 and then 100 kph requires substantial gas pedal effort in the Grandeur, which is available with automatic transmission only. But once you reach 100 kph and above, the straining ceases, the heaviness vanishes and the power surges. At low as well as at high speeds, the Exalta provides a comfortable, stable ride. The Exalta's multi-link beam suspension and the 30 percent increase in its

EXALTA p./B12

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Mitsubishi launches snazzier Adventure

BY AIDA SEVILLA-MENDOZA

WITH AN EYE to regaining the pole position in AUV sales, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines launched last Friday a snazzier Adventure Family Wagon for 2002. Mitsubishi's aim to grab market share from top competitor Toyota Revo is premised on its 1998 experience, when the Adventure was introduced and propelled the company to No. 1 rank in the industry while contributing more than 30 percent of total sales volume.

Mitsubishi is positioning the facelifted Adventure as a cross-over vehicle "designed for the Filipino family" or, more specifically, for value-conscious customers who want a sport utility vehicle (SUV) but are limited to an AUV budget. Thus the new and upgraded features of the Adventure suggest an image that draws the line between a "cross vehicle" and a high-end SUV.

The most distinctive new exterior features of the 2002 Adventure are its high-mount rear combination lamps (a design originated by Volvo in its Estate Wagon years ago), redesigned front bumper, large vertical-fin grille, multi-reflector quad headlamps, body cladding, fender flares, five-spoke aluminum wheels, lift-up tailgate with license plate garnish and adhesive type, flush-mounted window glass. In addition, Super Sport models have a two-tone finish and round, multi-reflector fog lamps.

Inside, the 2002 Adventure has a new audio system (Kenwood in-dash CD/tuner for the Super Sport and GLS models, Fujitsu Ten cassette/tuner for the GLX and GL plus four speakers for all models except the Super Sport, which has six), dashboard grip handle, thicker front seats, new seat and trim materials, keyless entry with alarm and, to reduce interior noise and provide additional heat insulation, a new three-layer dash, deck and hood insulator.

Mitsubishi is increasing the total number of Adventure

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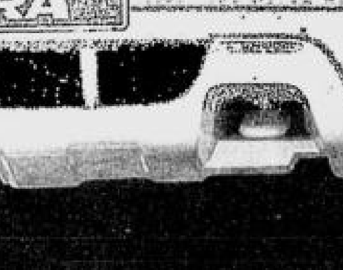

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Exalta

(From page B11)

body stiffness contribute to that.

Summing up, has NMPI succeeded in creating a sub M-class genre with the Exalta GS Grandeur? In terms of luxury, style, riding comfort and array of conveniences, the answer is yes. After all, the Exalta has never pretended to be a sporty high-performance car. And even though the Grandeur costs P875,000, that's still lower than the price of a less luxuriously equipped M-class car.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: If only closed minds came with closed mouths.

* * *

E-mail comments to aida_sevilla@pacific.net.ph

Mitsubishi

(From page B11)

variants from six to nine to compete more evenly with Toyota Revo's twelve. The GLS and GLX gasoline variants are being fielded to fill up Mitsubishi's previous lack of offerings in the mid-line to high mid-line AUV levels.

Diesel Adventure models are powered by the distributor-type fuel-injected 4D56 2.5-liter engine producing max output of 84 PS/4,200 rpm and max torque of 16.8 kg/2,500 rpm while gasoline models have the programmed multipoint-injected 4G63 engine yielding 114 PS/5,500 rpm and max torque of 16.8 kg-m/3,000 rpm, which is considered the highest in its class. The Adventure gasoline models are also the only ones in their class equipped with a catalytic converter.

Prices range from P785,000 for the top-of-the-line automatic gas Super Sport down to P640,000 for the entry-level manual transmission gas GLX.

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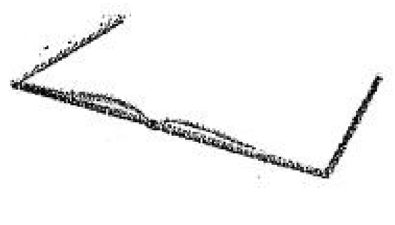

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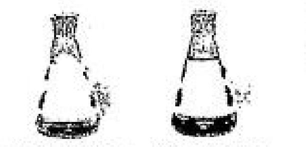

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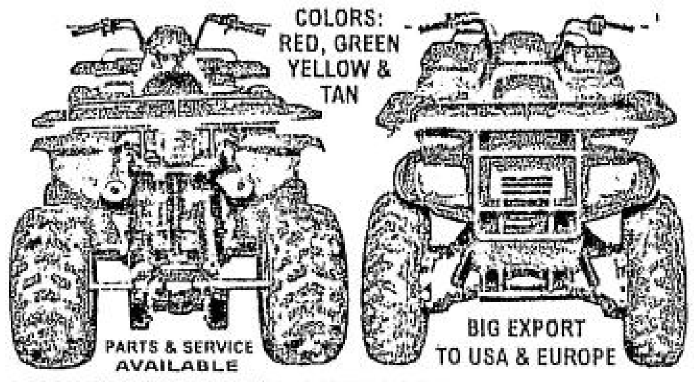

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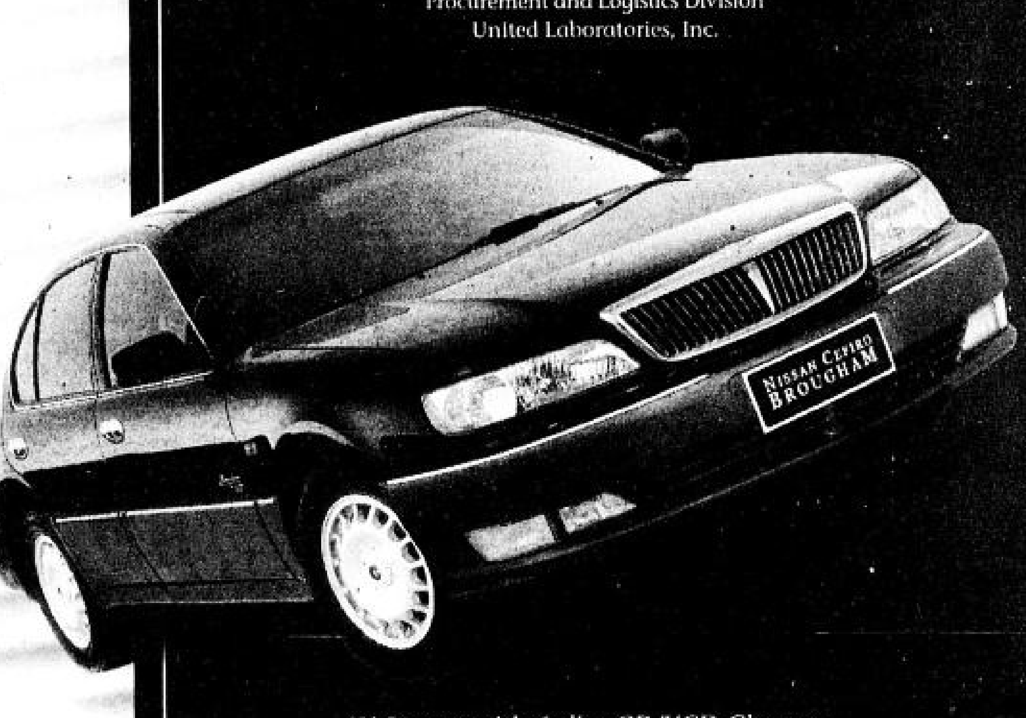

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THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

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I. FAMILY & SHORT ORDER DISHES • 16 recipes such as S & S Pineapple Chicken, Steamed Crabs, Stir Fried Beef Tenderloin with pepper, etc. in 4 meetings - July 23, 24, 25, 26 (P.M.)
II. How to make Ho Fen & Cheung Fen with different ways of cooking Ho Fen and diff. fillings in Cheung Fen - 8 recipes in 2 meetings - July 30 & 31 (P.M.)
III. ROASTING • AUG. 1, 2, 3 (A.M. & P.M.) - see details below
IV. DIMSUM • 12 recipes such as Chicken Pie, Mango Pudding, Ma Lai Cake, Kuchay Box, etc. in 4 meetings - Aug. 4, 6, 7, 8 (A.M.)
ONE-MEETING LESSONS:
July 20 (AM) - Dimsum: Chicken Feet, Spare Ribs, Almond Gelatin.
21 (AM) - Dimsum: Cantonese Congee, Beef Noodles, Vegetables in Oyster Sauce.
28 (AM) - Dishes: Misua Guisado, Maki, Seafood Lomi, Oysters Omelet.
28 (PM) - Dimsum: Beef Balls, Camote Buchi, Coconut Snow Balls.
Aug. 01 (AM) - Roasted Pork (Asado), Pickled Vegetables.
01 (PM) - Roasted Genuine Peking Duck.
02 (AM) - Roasted Crispy Skin Chicken, Assorted Soyed Dishes.
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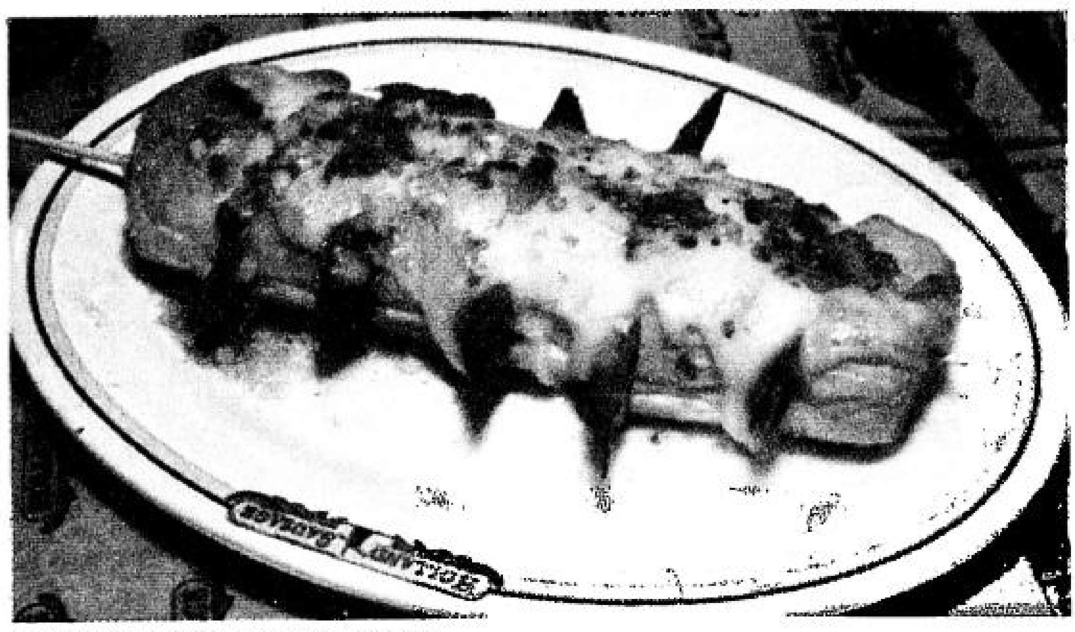


SKEWERED AND BAKED. Holland Sausage-Mozzarella Melt.

Dutch treat

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA
PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

ANOTHER American invasion, we thought, upon seeing the signage, colorful murals and the welcoming sausage out front with a grin from ear to ear. Thus, we were expecting to pay dollar-based rates.

What a pleasant surprise then that Holland Sausage, one of the newer dining places to offer great family meals at reasonable prices, is a local company started by four young and enterprising friends.

Dino Guingona studied to become a chef at the California Culinary Institute. When he came home in 1995, he began a business supplying hotels with fresh imported produce. It was then that he met Aernout Tierie, who was a supplier of produce and meats from Holland.

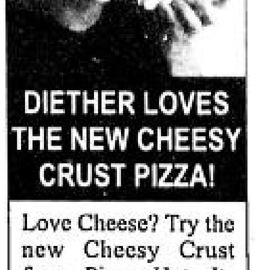
Tierie introduced Guingona to Dutch sausages. The moment Guingona got a taste of it, it was love at first bite. Together with friends Vincent Vargas and Gerry Jalandoni, Tierie and Guingona put up Holland Sausage, which now has branches in Landmark Department Store, Megamall, the Shangri-la Mall and Glorietta. "The Rockwell branch is the first free-standing, full-dining outlet we have," says Marc Reyes, operations manager for Holland Sausage.

Why not hamburgers? "The burger market is so satiated and there are really no gourmet sausage places here to speak of when Pinoys are such huge sausage and hotdog eaters," Guingona says. And so at Holland Sausage there are sausages of all shapes and sizes

DUTCH/ p.C2

NEPTUNE'S DELIGHT. Holland Sausage Aligue Pasta

Good news, sausage fans: Holland sausages in all shapes and sizes are prepared in every imaginable way, with specialty toppings at this Rockwell resto



DIETHER LOVES THE NEW CHEESY CRUST PIZZA!

Love Cheese? Try the new Cheesy Crust from Pizza Hut. Its outer crust is stuffed with mozzarella & then topped with imported cheddar cheese that's baked to a crisp. You can choose Cheesy Crust with any of your favorite toppings. "For all you cheese-lovers out there, it's the kind of pizza you'll truly crave for!" says Diether Ocampo. Rush to your favorite Pizza Hut or call 911-11-11.

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Dutch treat

(From page C1)

prepared in every imaginable way.

There are paprika, cheese, chicken-turkey and the very popular smoked sausage variety. Add to that their specialty toppings—a choice of angry chili, cheesy mushroom, herb pesto mayo or roasted garlic aioli.

Smoked sausage is a topseller at all Holland Sausage outlets and for good reasons. It has a tangy, spicy taste that is uncommon and quite addicting. Paired with a dip—garlic, preferably—it's sheer delight.

For appetizers, the place serves bite-sized marble potatoes, seasoned and baked with Holland sausage, served hot with cheesy mushroom, sour cream and crispy bacon bits. Another option is the Holland Sausage-Mozzarella Melt, which is sausage skewered and baked with fresh bread and mozzarella cheese, served with an anchovy-garlic sauce.

If the sandwiches and appetizers don't fill you up, go for the heavier rice dishes, as the Holland Sausage Grill which is chicken, Holland sausage, pineapple, green peppers and onions on a skewer basted with country-style barbecue sauce. This meal is pretty hefty, it's good enough for two, or even three individuals. There are also pasta dishes and a really tasty but sinful one is the Holland Sausage Aligue, which is tiny crab roe purée with bits of Holland sausage, garlic, minced ginger, tomatoes and Parmesan cheese.

If sausage isn't your thing, Holland Sausage also has quite an extensive selection of chicken entrées.

Prices at Holland Sausage are reasonable and the servings are quite large. Five hundred pesos is more than adequate to fill the tummies and quench the thirst of two adults and three young children.

On weekdays and nights, the place is filled with young professionals from the nearby offices, and weekends find Holland Sausage simply jampacked with families. It helps that there is a playground right across the restaurant.

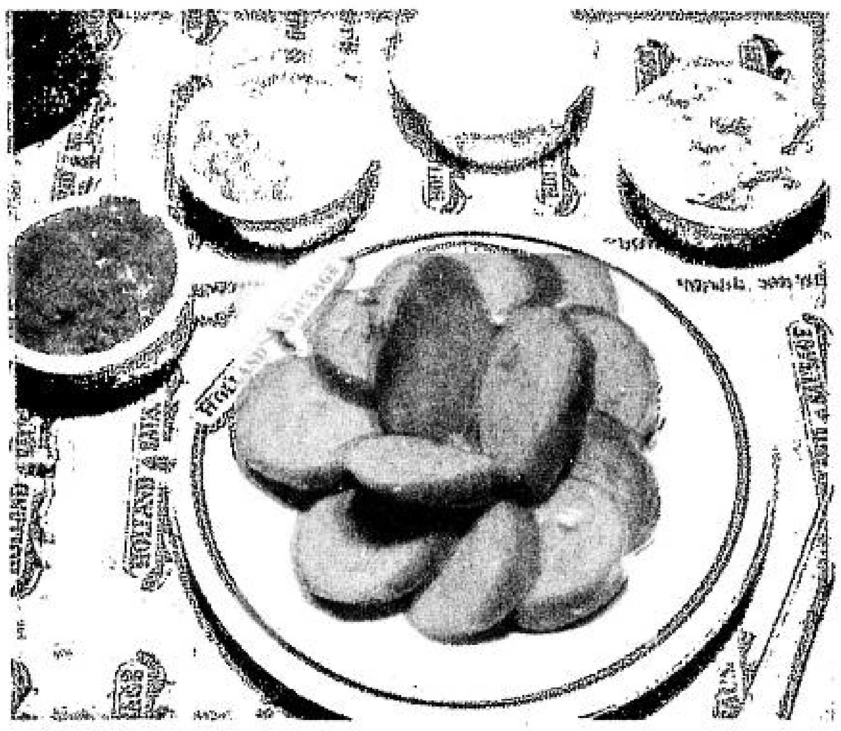
Dining can either be done within the cool confines of the restaurant (though sometimes the aroma of sausages grilling can be a wee bit strong) or alfresco under large parasols.

Holland Sausage is a good example of a local food franchise that has done very well. The Rockwell branch is the first stand-alone, dining set-up but two other branches are set to open before yearend.

An afternoon with the children, sausage on the table and kids frolicking on the playground, thank God for places where one need not spend an arm and a leg to get good food.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

SUPER STARTERS. Holland Sausage-Baked Potatoes



TOPSELLER. Smoked sausage with a selection of dips

DINO Guingona and Marc Reyes with the Holland Sausage mascot

Unmistakably Glenda

Via Mare: A Seafood Cookbook
By Glenda Rosales Barretto
Asian Imprints, London, 2001
127 pages

BY DOREEN G. FERNANDEZ

REVIEW

THIS is a delicious cookbook, bringing together the author's memories of traditional Leyte-Samar food, her long experience in catering and restaurants, and her creative imagination.

Glenda Rosales Barretto has published two previous cookbooks: "Flavors of the Philippines" and "Asean Seafood Cookbook" (both 1997). In this one she gathers "my own recipes," which take off from what she learned in her mother's kitchen, what she experienced as she worked in restaurants, especially her first, Via Mare (established in 1975); what she absorbed as she talked to cooks, market vendors, foodies and chefs in her extensive travels; and the dynamic fusion that all this made in her chef's mind and heart.

The cookbook is Glenda, unmistakably and uniquely so. I remember dining in the new Via Mare, where we were fascinated by a crust-covered soup, and one made of pumpkin (squash); or crabs with mangoes, and especially *calabasin enmielada*, a dessert baked in a carved squash bowl.

Even today she still amazes me: with her paella-stuffed *lechon* which one sliced crosswise, to get rounds per serving that had a rim of crisp skin, a layer of lean meat, a hint of fat and a core of paella. Imitators do not approach the perfection of that first edition by Glenda. Or, at the Pagsanjan Rapids Hotel, the *binagoongang baboy* with crisp *lechon kawali* and *bagnet*, which she does not make for any outlet except that one. Or her nonpareil native salad bar, with *kangkong*, *puso ng saging*, mushrooms, beans, etc., and such dressings as *bagoong alamang*, *suka't bawang*, coconut milk, etc.

She prepared an all-*kinilaw* reception for a book launch, and drew on her hometown *kinilaw* and innovations. Imagine painting the vinegar dressing on the raw tuna (with a paintbrush), so that there would be just enough sourness and marinade. Too much renders *kinilaw* opaque and lifeless.

Via Mare is, of course, famous for magnificent catering for crowds of 20 to 2,000. In any location—the Coconut Palace, the banks of the Pagsanjan river, Malacañang, and private homes and gardens.

At a food tour of Dumaguete, Tagbilaran, General Santos and Davao, Glenda was a joy to watch in markets, restaurants, sidewalks—discovering, rediscovering and instantly planning. In Dumaguete, the marketplace breakfast of *budbud kabug* with thick *tsokolate*; the long silver fishes that she later knotted neatly and grilled on coal; the tiny squid that she could not resist because they were so small and sweet; the products of Alson's the giant fish farm, that she instantly placed orders for, in restaurant serving sizes; the *uni* or sea urchin that were served fresh in Bais, and on which we felt drunk. "What can I do with these in order to get my men some income?" asked the mayor. "I'll take everything you have," answered Glenda.

At every step she invents, such that when she finally wrote down everything—the sum total of experience—was not only magnificent, but also kitchen-tested and lucidly explained.

The recipes have English titles, of course, because they are for international circulation. But the discerning eye will detect their native roots, the traditions from which they took off.

The Shrimp and Sweet Potato Fritters are obviously the lowly *okoy* finely done, complete with *sawsawan* of vinegar, garlic, shallots and soy sauce. The Prawns in Chili Onion Vinaigrette, marinated and chilled for 30 minutes each, then dressed with red onion, chili, olive oil and vinegar, are *kinilaw na sugpo*, given the benison of olive oil.

Fresh Anchovy Ceviche is of course a lovely *kilawing dilis*. The South American *ceviche* generally uses lime and sometimes coconut (remember James Michener's "Tales of the South Pacific"?); the Philippine *kinilaw* depends on vinegar, although native limes are also used in Batanes, and sometimes *calamansi*.

Oysters and Pearls in Pumpkin Cream is a development on Glenda's original soup, now enriched with tapioca pearls and oysters, and is served in hollowed-out, carved soup bowls made of real pumpkins.

Sinigang is transformed into Asian Fish Chowder, with fish head, prawns and grouper fillet; taro root, *daikon* radish, string beans, aubergines, water cabbage or spinach—and tamarind powder and *patis* to taste. Stuffed Crab Shells/Grilled in Banana Leaves adds a master touch to what we know as *tortilla de cangrejo* or *rellenong alimango*. Stuffed Milkfish is *rellenong bangus*.

And, oh, what photographs there are to illustrate the ways of serving, the richness of food, its colors and textures. Master photographer Neal Oshima's skilled artistry is a worthy partner to Glenda's food artistry.

It is a delicious book, indeed. Reading it, one tastes and savors it, even if one's cooking skills are far below those of Glenda, who is, and has cooked with and for, food royalty.

Short courses on desserts and baking

THE MAYA Kitchen Culinary Arts Center is offering certified courses in baking, cake decoration and dessert preparation.

Train in the lucrative craft of baking in large quantities through the course in Baking with Institutional Mixes. Items to be taught include assorted Brownies, Pineapple Carrot Cake, Choco-Banana Loaf, Chocolate Muffins with Fudge Frosting, Pretzel, Hotdog on Stick, Mango Samurai, Butterscotch Squares and Chocolate Crinkles. The course, featuring a lecture on cost profit analysis, will be on July 21, 1:30-5 p.m. Enrollment fee is P500.

The Panghimagas (Pinoy Desserts) course features no-bake Leche Flan, Halayang Ube, Yema, Pastillas de Leche, Pulboron, Macaroons and Buko Pie on July 28, 1:30-5 p.m. for P500.

The certified course in Basic Baking will give intensive and hands-on training in preparing basic piecrusts, different types of cakes, quick bread, yeast breads and more on July 18-20, 1:30-5 p.m. for P2,000.

The certified course on Basic Cake Decoration integrates lecture and workshop on the fundamentals of cake decorating, from coloring to designing, template and icing. You'll learn how to carry out basic borders, jelly lettering, basic flower making and bunching, and motif. Classes will be held on July 21 and 28, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost is P2,000.

Call 892-1185/5011, local 108; or e-mail mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph.

Easy-to-make 'baon'

ALFA Metalcraft Corporation's Multicooking System, fine stainless steel cookware, allows working mothers to cook without water, fry without fat, bake, roast and steam, thus saving them time, money and effort

AMC is an affiliate of Waters Philippines, distributor of the Waters Bio-Mineral Pot, shares three simple but healthy back-to-school recipes:

Chicken Wings Orientale

12 pcs chicken wings, discard wings tips, cut wings at the joint

Marinade:
¼ c soy sauce
¼ c hoisin sauce
2 tbsp Chinese wine
2 tbsp honey
4 tbsp garlic, minced

1) Place chicken in a container.

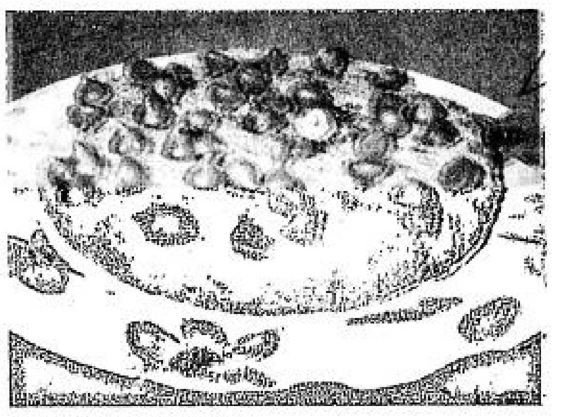
2) Combine all ingredients for the marinade. Pour over chicken wings.

3) Cover and refrigerate for four hours or overnight, turning occasionally.

4) Pre-heat AMC Multicooking System's 28 cm. Roasting Pan over low heat until visiotherm touches "A."

5) Remove chicken pieces from the marinade and arrange on the pan.

6) Cover and roast until needle touches "C."



CHEWY oatmeal bars

Crunchy Banana Cupcakes

1 c all-purpose flour
½ tsp baking soda
½ tsp baking powder
2 tbsp vegetable oil
¾ c brown sugar
1 pc egg
1/3 c evaporated milk combined with
½ tsp vinegar
¼ tsp vanilla extract
1 c banana (*lacatan*), mashed
½ c cashew nuts, chopped

1) Line muffin pan or moulds with paper cups. Set aside.

2) Sift first three ingredients together in a bowl. Blend oil and sugar. Add egg and beat until smooth. Add milk.

3) Stir in bananas, vanilla and cashew nuts.

4) Pour mixture into muffin pan or moulds.

5) Pre-heat AMC's 24 cm. Unit Deep over medium heat until visiotherm touches "M." Place a rack and put muffin pan or moulds. Bake for 15 minutes.

Chewy Oatmeal Bars

1 c quick-cooking oatmeal
2½ c graham crackers or Marie biscuits, crushed
1 c chocolate chips, divided
1 regular can condensed milk

1) Pre-heat AMC's 28 cm. Unit Deep over medium heat until visiotherrn touches "M."

2) In a bowl, mix together oatmeal, graham crackers and half of chocolate chips.

3) Put in condensed milk and mix well until all ingredients are blended.

4) Line an 8-inch round pan with wax paper and spread mixture evenly to pan.

5) Sprinkle half of chocolate chips on top.

6) Put on top of rack and bake inside Unit Deep until needle touches "C."

7) Turn off fire and cook further for 5 to 10 minutes.

8) Let cool before slicing.

Dining in a Japanese garden

THE PROMISE of good food is enough to lure people to a new restaurant. But if the place also offers hungry and stressed out urbanites a haven from the noise and pollution outside, then the first visit is followed by more.

Such is the experience of those who've stumbled upon Banzai!, the Japanese teppanyaki restaurant and sushi bar located at the E-Center Building on E. Rodriguez Avenue, Acropolis, Libis, QC.

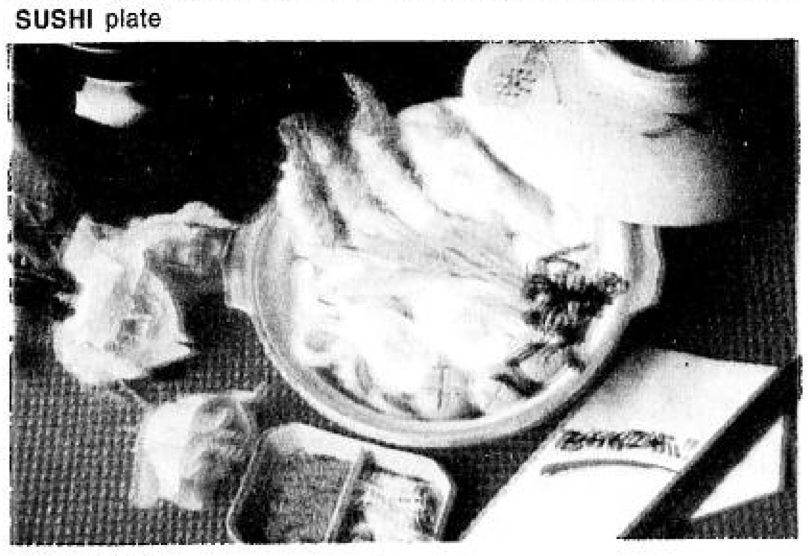
At Banzai! diners get not only sustenance for their bodies but their spirits are renewed by the feast for the senses carefully laid out for them by the husband-and-wife team of Jun Dulalia and Tita Mendoza.

A Japanese *tori* (wooden gateway) welcomes diners to Banzai! and leads them into the *izakaya* or tea garden where they can savor delectable Japanese cuisine. Inside is a Japanese wall garden with a waterfall. Three elements—stone, water and green plants—fuse in this paradise that is Banzai! providing a balance and selective connection with the world outside, drawing the universe into the natural setting of the restaurant.

Banzai! offers visitors a heady blend of both traditional elements that would normally be found in a Japanese restaurant and the not-so-traditional items on the menu concocted. Among these are unique specialty rolls and hand rolls, enticingly known as Banzai! designer sushi—Asian fusion cuisine at its finest.

There is a sunken teppanyaki tatami room for those celebrating a big event. It sits 15-20 guests and the staff of Banzai! is available for consultations on menus and platters to fit the needs of diners. Special arrangements can also be made for groups who wish to hold theme parties. Banzai! is available for their exclusive use on these occasions.

SUSHI plate



TEMPURA

TASTEMAKERS

IF you didn't instantly recognize Chowking from the photo, it's because the country's leading quick-serve Oriental restaurant chain has taken on a crisp new look that fuses East and West, and now also provides more food choices with newly developed menu items. This one is the new Greenbelt outlet.

CHAMPS

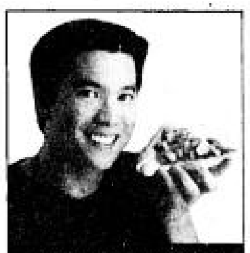
Members of KFC's President's Club, which acknowledges KFC restaurant general managers who have achieved 100 percent in CHAMPS (cleanliness, hospitality, accuracy, maintenance, product quality and speed) scores in five consecutive months, were recently awarded at Edsa-Shangri-La. The recognition ceremony was headed by QSR president Jesus R. Montemayor (5th from left) and Tricon Global Restaurants Inc. (KFC's international office) chief executive officer David Novak (2nd from left).

POLITICALLY CORRECT

Politixx recently celebrated its second anniversary with Annette Ablan launching the Manong Roque Ilocano dinner buffet, with the blessing of her father, former congressman Roque Ablan Jr. Guests can feast on the best of Ilocoslovakia's cuisine, such as the famous *bagnet* (crispy pork belly), authentic *pinakbet*, *longganisa* (distinct for its garlic aroma), *bagbagis*, *dining-ding* (stewed vegetables), *singlaw* (power soup) and an array of Ilocano salads, all for a special introductory price of P185. Buffet starts at 6:30 p.m. till 9:30 p.m. Mondays to Saturdays. There is also a special dinner-show package that includes the Blue Angels show of female impersonators from Wednesdays to Saturdays. Show starts at 10 p.m.

NINTH DELI HEAVEN

Ortigas-based gourmets won't have to trek all the way to Makati to find those hard-to-find ingredients for three-mushroom lasagna or tiramisu. Santis Delicatessen, bastion of European ingredients for both professional chefs and finicky homemakers, has recently opened its ninth branch at G/F Astoria Plaza Condominium on Amber Avenue, Ortigas. Not only does the new Santis Deli offer the same French and Italian cheeses, exotic salad dressings and prime meat cuts, it also allows patrons to relax and sample freshly baked croissants, bagels, pastries and brewed coffee at its cozy café bar.



DIETHER LOVES THE NEW CHEESY CRUST PIZZA!

Love Cheese? Try the new Cheesy Crust from Pizza Hut. Its outer crust is stuffed with mozzarella & then topped with imported cheddar cheese that's baked to a crisp. You can choose Cheesy Crust with any of your favorite toppings. "For all you cheese-lovers out there, it's the kind of pizza you'll truly crave for!" says Diether Ocampo. Rush to your favorite Pizza Hut or call 911-11-11.

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L' Incontro Turns Two

Two years ago, Gino and Linda Martinel opened the doors of their restaurant, ***L'Incontro***, to the public and almost instantaneously, its reputation for superb culinary fare inspired by the cuisine of Northern Italy has spread in the metropolis.

Today, ***L'Incontro***, along tree-lined Nicanor Garcia Street in Makati has become a byword for gourmets and gourmands in Metro Manila with a passion for excellent fine dining. Its patrons are from all walks of life united by a common passion for uncommonly delectable Italian food.

The restaurant's customers include businessmen, politicians, expatriates, luminaries from the worlds of fashion, media and entertainment, the diplomatic community - even the religious. And all those who've come for a tasting has left L'Incontro smitten by the food as well as by Gino Martinel's infectious *bonhomie*.

L'Incontro's menu has remained the same since it opened, with a few additions.

People still close their eyes momentarily upon the first impact of lips to the piquant broth that can be tasted in Gino's *Brodeto Meditarraneo*; the level of satisfaction has not waned when guests order the seabass *cartoccio*, *Branzino Galeone* as well as the *Scaloppine di Vitello* or *Bisteca Florentina*, which is 600 gms grilled porterhouse or tenderloin *Tagliata*, airflown from Australia.

New items to be found in the menu include a succulent *Ossobuco, Vitello Tonato, Filleto di Manzo al Flambe, Costollete di Agnello alla Turka* while bestsellers, as always, are Gino's home-made specialty *pastas - Tortelli del Padrino, Tagliatelle Invernalli, Taglierini del Nostromo, Strozza Peti*, and others.

The house also offers executive lunch at Php 550 (inclusive of all charges). This includes choice of *Insalata Siciliana, Minestrone*; pasta with your choice of sauce or *Petto li Pollo al Funghi*; dessert, and coffee or tea.

L'Incontro's supply of fine wine comes from some of Europe's finest cellars. A cup of strong espresso along with a select choice of savory desserts - *Bianca Mangia, Ricotta Mousse*, or a *Panacotta* with honey and walnuts, and perhaps, a scoop of the house's home-made gelato, capped by a shot of *amaretto* liquer or grappa can sweep all troubles away and put one in a top-of-the-world mood.

The same exuberant, homey atmosphere in the 200 square meter, high-ceilinged restaurant remains today. A verandah has been added with its own entrance, separate from the main dining salon. The verandah can accomodate thirty people and is often booked for private functions and business meetings.

Plants adorn the main dining room, making it a lush, cool place where one may observe a family applauding a birthday celebrant who laughs with glee as he is surprised by the staff with a candle-lit cake to the joyous chords of an Italian celebratory song. Across the room may be seen a well-dressed couple oblivious of the rest of the world as they raise a glass of wine to each other in quiet celebration. Soft tunes played live by the resident guitarist can be heard in the background.

Patrons are also welcome to the musical instruments in the restaurant. A regular customer is a hefty Israeli, who often plays jazz music on the piano. And he is actually good at it, too!

If ***L'Incontro*** is currently the happy and successful place that it is, it is also because of the dedication given it by its owners. Gino, since the restaurant opened in 1999, has not taken any break from his daily routine of going to his favorite marketplaces, personally choosing from among the freshest produce available, buying not only for the delectable dishes to be served restaurant patrons but also for his staff of twenty-two whom he feeds every single day.

The Martinels' big hearts must definitely have something to do with ***L'Incontro***'s good luck. For the past two years they have continued a Christmas tradition practiced in Gino's native Bolzano in northern Italy. A percentage of the restaurant's earnings goes to a selected beneficiary. Of late, the Martinels have virtually adopted 25 street children cared for by *Bahay ni Maria*, a religious foundation. The couple, with their two boys, Alberto and Alessandro, set aside a day during the holidays and play hosts to *Bahay*'s wards. Each child is given a chef's *toque* and a delicious meal; funds are also provided for a bus to drive the children to a beach resort of their choice outside Manila.

"I enjoy the (commercial) success, yes," says Gino. "But more than that, I enjoy making people happy, seeing them laugh and contented. And I enjoy working to make sure that this (state of affairs) continue." Which explains why he hasn't gone on vacation for the last two years since ***L'Incontro*** was opened.

Indeed, it has been a great two years for ***L'Incontro***. On the 25th of August, the Martinels would like to say a resounding **GRAZIE** to all those who have contributed to the restaurant's success. They will host a whole-day celebration of food and wine to mark ***L'Incontro***'s 2nd Anniversary. Regular patrons will be treated to the restaurant's bestsellers. And for those who have heard of but haven't yet experienced the superb service and cuisine that has given ***L'Incontro***'s its fine reputation, now is your chance to see what this establishment is all about. ***And its all in the house!***

L' Incontro
Ristorante Italiano

L'Incontro is located at 207 Nicanor Garcia St., Makati City, Metro Manila. Open Monday to Sunday, from 11am to 11pm. The restaurant seats 120; a live acoustic band is played from from Monday to Saturday. Valet parking available, all major credit cards accepted. For reservations and/or catering services, please call 899-0635, 899-0639.

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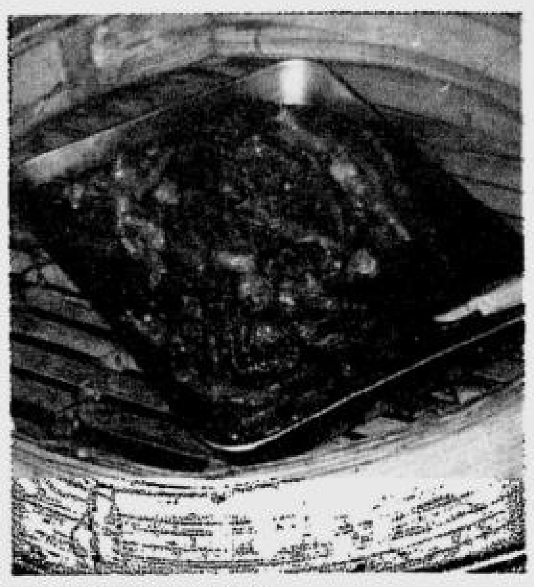
STEAMED chicken feet

THE BALAW-BALAW breakfast buffet

Angono: The flavors of art, the art of flavors

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

THE TOWN between Taytay and Binangonan in Rizal province, Angono, boasts of two National Artists among its native sons: Carlos "Botong" Francisco, the muralist nonpareil, and Lucio San Pedro, who composed the band music for the yearly Salubong, and sometimes conducts the band as well. The famed Botong played basketball with his friends in the plaza, and directed a Boy Scout troop.

To them he would sometimes give tasks: go and find us food, or else we starve. The land- and water-wise boys would lop off a light tree branch, throw it into river or lake, and go on with their games. At assembly time they would pull the branch up, find all sorts of sea creatures and little fish clinging to it, and return to the scoutmaster and lunch.

One of those boys was Perdigon Vocalan, painter and owner-chef of the restaurant Balaw-balaw. An orphan, he had learned cooking from his aunts, which skill he and his wife parlayed into the 21-year-old, extremely successful restaurant. His paintings hang on the walls, many of them images of *laman lupa* and water scenes, not particularly Botong-like (he says one must "kill" one's artistic father and go out on one's own limb). His artistry is further expressed in the exterior and interior architecture of the restaurant—old wood from railroads, stones, folk art, sculpture—and now an art gallery.

PERDIGON Vocalan, artist and chef

Gustatory art

His food is gustatory art born of the land, waters (Laguna de Bay right beside) and hills of Angono. Take the breakfast he set in July for a class of young Jesuits: *arroz caldo* with a deeply native gusto, the rice cooked with *kasubha*. With and around it were offered: the flesh of the native chickens boiled with it, young egg yolks and the *bahay guya* that enclosed them; chicken feet tender and slightly spicy; crisped garlic and sliced spring onions; calamansi and *patis*, and a superlative *tokwa't baboy*, the tofu crisp, the pork tender.

Ah, the flavors, the simplicity, the down-to-earth goodness eons away from ready-to-eat and *merendero* versions that had not been as lovingly cooked. An unexpected contrast was provided by tiny, crisp-fried *taguntan* (river shrimp) lightly floured.

It was a meal that could have been a mid-morning or afternoon snack, for the flexible Filipino, heart in the land, takes its bounty when he wishes, unlimited by assigned meal times or patterns.

Lunch stars the lake fish: *sinigang na kanduli sa miso* served with *balaw-balaw* (*burong hipon*); *burong hito* red with *angkak*, sautéed with eggplants and chili; *sinigang na dalag* (rich with roe) *sa santol*; *ginataang kuhol at alimasag, dinilawan na carpa*—big-head carp cooked with turmeric and *alagaw* leaves (which Angono folk associate with Holy Week, since it is often the background of the *sinakulo* crucifixion scene); *hito sa gata, inihaw na dalag* with green mangoes and *bagoong*. And the denizens of field and forest: fried *itik, pinaupong manok* stuffed with tamarind fruits and leaves; *pako* and *tinapa* salads; sometimes *tapang usa, tapang baboy damo, adobong bayawak*, even *adobong sawa*.

The art of cooking these in simple and traditional ways is built into Digon's mind, along with the images of Angono terrain and mythology.

Not alone

Nor is he alone. In the Blanco Family Museum (now with a curator and an academy for painting lessons), the town and its people are the subjects of Jose "Pitok" Blanco and his six children and wife. She is the youngest of the painters, having taken it up last, when youngest son Peter Paul insisted on teaching her. The young Jesuits marveled that Peter Paul had started painting at the age of 11 months—how could he help it, in such a family?

Ariel Olinares, who guided us through Angono food (e.g. Boy de Mesa's ducks, with the eggs meant for *balut* and salted eggs) and art, has worked as engineer and designer, but has been painting since elementary school, and is setting up a small gallery in his home.

He took us to visit retired Dr. Rodolfo Reyes, whose father was a former Angono town mayor. In his large and lovely bonsai garden, he introduces his proud creations—all native plants (*mulawin, molave, sampaloc, bayabas*), in imaginative locally made native containers—as if they were children as well as works of art, which they are.

What has made Angono such a birthplace, home and stimulus for art and artists? Remember it also has the Angono petroglyphs, prehistoric art in a rock shelter. Is it the serene lake against the low hills? Is it the fresh availability of fish and fowl, land creatures and flavors from fields and forests, river and lake? Is it the interaction of artists as colleagues, basketball teammates, Boy Scout masters, band members and cooks? Is it San Clemente, patron saint, whose image the town takes into the lake, accompanied by marching bands and *higantes*, during the fiesta on Nov. 23? Is it the closeness to roots?

Even the increasing traffic and growing commercialization around cannot spoil it. Angono—and Botong, San Pedro, Digon, Ariel, all the other artists, and down-home food—one gives thanks for, and enjoys for the grace of its life and art.

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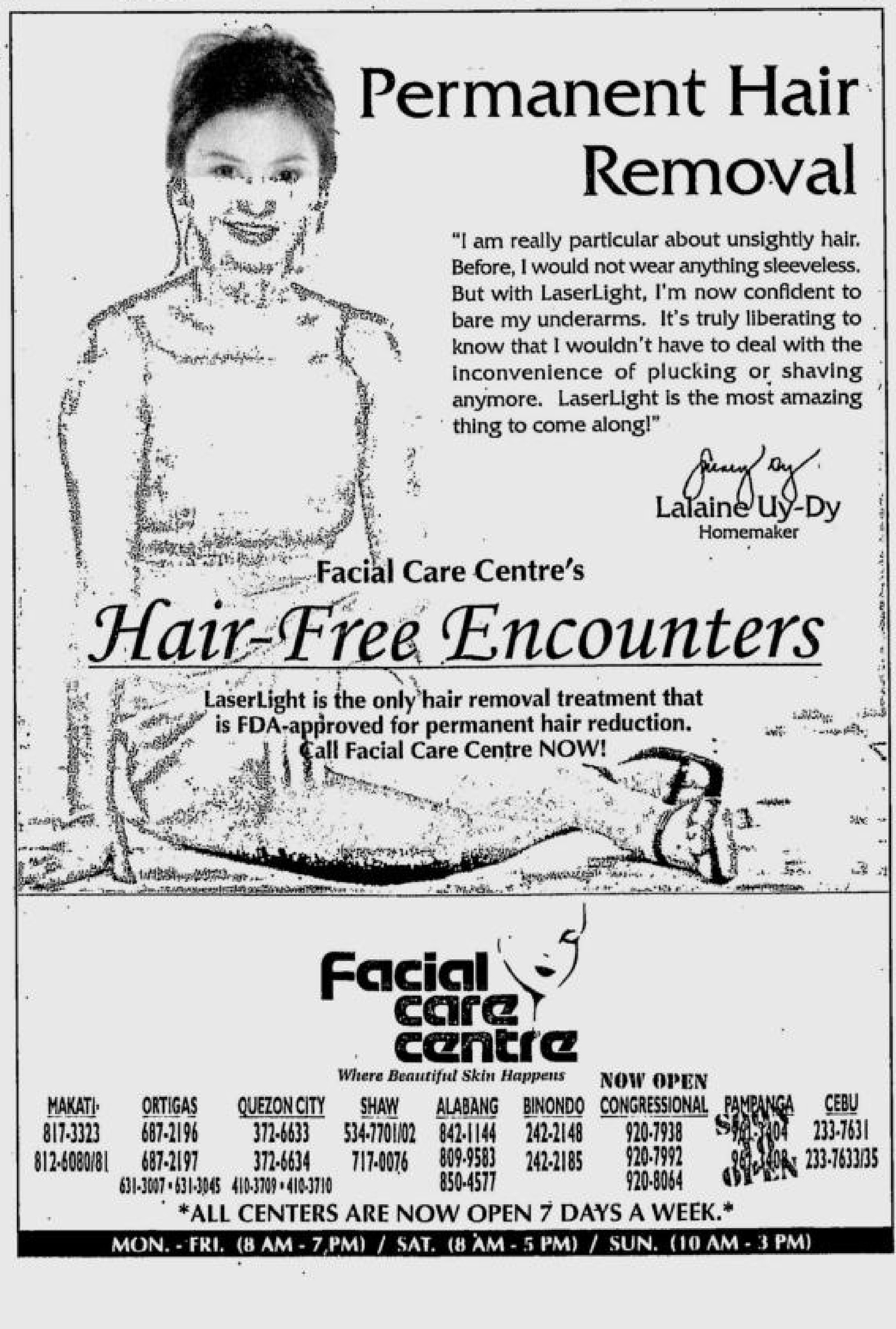
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